



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

I managed to spend a day working in the Manitou Reading Garden with Angela and a volunteer. We got trimming, weeding, and transplanting done and the gates arrived the following week. After years of continual work, it is ready for visitors once the Covid restrictions are lifted.

The following week, all libraries were once again closed to the public and staff moved into contactless mode. As the announcement came late on Friday, I contacted the Branches and told them to bring in extra staff because I knew we would be busy with people wanting to stock up on books. And it was, as nearly 2500 books were circulated on Saturday in just a few open hours!

The staff are getting really good at making the switch from open to contactless but it is much more time consuming. Having patrons come in and pick their own books is much simpler than contactless but we are happy to provide this service.

I would also like to welcome Raina Teigrob to her new Branch Administrator position in the Miami Branch. She has been working some shifts in Miami during the month of May and will start her duties on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Welcome aboard Raina.

I managed to take some holiday time at the end of May and didn't spend too much time stomping out fires. Thanks to great staff who know their jobs so well and can handle the crazy and unexpected.

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

About a week into May, we had to close our doors to the public once again due to COVID restrictions. Thankfully my workflow wasn't affected by the new restrictions but even in the office I notice how empty the library feels without the background noise of people in the building.

The Whitehots spring/summer orders have begun arriving and I also placed another order DVDs (including branch requests and replacement copies). DVDs were also purchased for the family fun packs that will be part of our summer reading prizes.

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

We now have the opportunity to focus on planning for the Summer Reading Club 2021, I do my best to prepare as much as possible. The theme for this year is 'Ticket to Read' based on the game 'Ticket to Ride'. This game is one of the most famous and you can apply the largest number of ideas and variations with no limitation of your imagination.

To attract attention and interact with the main idea, I visited Miami Museum, met with Miami Museum Coordinator Joan Driedger and recorded a video with Raina, as the new Branch Admin to represent their "station". Every week on Thursday new videos are still being released, thanks to all the libraries for their help and cooperation.

During the month, there were several trips; there was also an interview with students in Altona. To sum up, the only drawback is the critical lack of time for organizing the whole process, but together we can handle it.

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

We had Children's Book Week author: Shane Peacock visit us and 20 different South Central classrooms attended virtually over zoom. We had about 300 children in attendance and he was very good. We all enjoyed meeting Mr. Peacock and hearing about his books and how he writes them.

In May the Province reenacted restrictions for many places including libraries so we had to move back to contactless pickups. Thankfully we have become very adaptable, so we could switch gears quickly and still serve our patrons.

In May I had some computer setups/clean ups to perform which kept me very busy, I also started gearing up to set up our READsquared program for the summer. Most of the technical side is done and we are almost ready to go.

For June we will be gearing up for Summer Reading, there is still lots to do to get ready and we look forward to having a great summer.

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

Since the branch closed to the public on May 11 due to new Public Health orders, we have been offering contactless pickup services once again, and demand has been steady with staff getting phone calls and emails from patrons to request materials, in addition to them placing holds from home.

Besides regular library duties, including inter-library loans which have continued, staff have been working on other projects, including weeding most of the collection, decorating and brainstorming & researching program ideas for the Summer Reading Program, garden clean up, new book orders, reviewing and updating our internal operating and emergency procedures, reviewing workplace health and safety information (including some video tutorials on First Aid). There has also been an update to our Evergreen ILS and staff has been watching video tutorials on the changes.

The Book Club met via Zoom on May 8 but has postponed the early June meeting to see if restrictions change after June 12. We all hope to welcome our patrons back soon! I am working on completing an exit strategy and am also updating procedures manual with staff input. Staff has also been assisting with selecting young adult and picture books to purchase on the spring order.

The branch did a minor reorganization, moving the classics section to provide an extra shelf for overflowing junior non-fiction materials.

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### **Miami Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Raina Teigrob**

I couldn't be more excited to be taking on the Branch Administrator role for the Miami Library. I was a page back when I was in high school from 2012-2015 at the Winkler Branch, and was hired on as a clerk in 2020. Currently I am working towards by diploma for Librarian and Information Technology.

Miami's new floor plan flows well and has created more open space for patrons to browse and read. Patrons have reacted well and given positive feedback regarding the changes while we were open.

Our printer has been giving us a hard time in the past few weeks, and decided to quit working altogether at one point. Thankfully, we've gotten a new one now and are back in the printing business.

Thanks to Donna and Dorothy for keeping Miami Library running during the month of May. They've done a great job at keeping everything going. We are excited to get back into a regular routine here and start planning and getting to work on the Summer Reading Club.

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### **Morden Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Gail Hildebrand**

To honour Mother's Day, this month's display theme was "Women." We had books on women's health, biographies, and inspirational stories.

Our last day before closing was crazy busy, people definitely took advantage of having a bit of warning and stocked up on books. Our gate count was roughly double a typical Saturday and people were taking out stacks to help get them through the shut down. It was another day to be very proud of our patrons and community, since everyone tried their best to be in and out so the next person would have an opportunity to come in as well.

We've taken this time to have a few more things done by the City of Morden:

- Painted our front foyer
- Replaced a sink in the women's bathroom
- Anchored new shelving to the wall

We are fortunate to receive a grant from the Morden Thrift Store for \$5500. We have purchased some new individual seating and shelving with the funds. It's given our front seating area a completely different look. We have also created a new seating area where our new books are displayed and will be using some of this money for 2 new chairs there as well.

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

May was an eventful month. We had a week long book sale starting the 4<sup>th</sup> of May and running till the 8<sup>th</sup>. The sale was held in the front reading area of the library and it went over well. Since we held it during the week we normally have the SCRL book sale, people were accustomed to there being a sale around that time of year and we had a lot of interest in the weeks leading up to it. There were several people who commented that they enjoyed the accessibility of having a book sale in the library, rather than having to go to another town. I would like to hold another book sale in the library, possibly in the summer and one just before Christmas if restrictions permit. The last day of book sale was also the last day we were open to the public before the new restrictions, so we were very busy.

Since then we have been closed for browsing and have switched back to contactless hold pickup & are averaging approximately 60 people per day for holds. Most of those people are placing holds on multiple books so we are quite busy.

We also had a few staff changes in May. Linda decided to not continue with the programming position and Raina has taken this on in addition to her branch duties. We wish her all the best in her new roles. We are working on filling her clerk position in Winkler.

On May 13<sup>th</sup> there was a slight incident when a branch fell off the tree in the northwest corner of the library and landed on the roof of the library. Other than some slight bending of the eaves trough, there was no damage. The tree has since been cut down completely and been taken care of by the City.

In June we will continue with our contactless pickups until we are able to reopen the library. We have also started working on decorations and promoting Summer Reading Club so we will continue with that. Currently we are focusing on decorating the front entrance, that way if we have to stay closed for part of July we still have a visual indication that the Summer Reading Club is still going ahead and hopefully get kids excited about joining.

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