

Director's Report – submitted by Cathy Ching

The end of the year is quickly approaching with all the branches preparing for the holidays. Good for everyone for wanting to promote SCRL and their own branches in the best way possible. Providing LEGO Clubs, book clubs, patron appreciation days and other inclusive opportunities shows how important our libraries are to the public.

I would also like to thank the staff for their professionalism during the past several months in the face of such difficult accusations. Thanks to the Board and members of our Councils for your on-going support for our libraries and our communities. We look forward to 2023 by promoting our libraries and services in a positive way. We are challenging our branches to aim high and try to return to pre-pandemic levels of circulation. It should be an exciting year!

Cataloguing Technician Report – Office – submitted by Joanna Dueck

November - It's been another busy month of receiving deliveries and cataloguing exciting new items for the branches! In November we received over 38 boxes of new books from Whitehots, including many Christmas and winter-themed books. I've been working hard to get those catalogued for the branches so that patrons can check them out in time for the holiday season.

December – December 1-3 was the SCRL book sale that took place in Morden. I was there for part of all 3 days to help with setup, organizing, and then cleanup at the end. I thought it went very well overall and we had a great team of volunteers. On Dec. 16th Raina and I attended a meeting being held by the mayors and reeves of SCRL municipalities, to defend & inform regarding the recent presentations made by delegations. We were asked to present the library staff's point of view and answer any questions regarding collection development, acquisitions, and other policies.

Programmer Report – submitted by Raina Teigrob

In December I released two Christmas/holiday videos and continued working on some winter themed videos for the new year. A lot of my hours were spent editing and filming, and in the first 24-48 hours of publishing the DIY Miniature Evergreen Tree we already had 100 views. Our YouTube channel now has 500 subscribers. I also did my usual tasks of working on the newsletter, scheduling social media posts, and updating programming events on our website and programming calendars.

For 2023, my goal is to focus on putting out more social media posts focused on fun things at or about our libraries and start working on some fun book related content for our YouTube channel.

Altona Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Rachael Friesen

November - We had more class tours and visits during November. They love the new library.

Acorns and Oaks finished out the program in November, the kids had a great time. Thank you to our volunteer Oaks for coming in to spend time with our little Acorns.

Local author, Caleb Winterburn read his young adult book: Ruin Maker which was well attended.

We held a furniture sale to sell off items for SCRL that none of the branches were able to use, many items were sold.

We held our first 2 sessions of Lego Club which was very popular.

For the Altona 'Night of Lights' we kept the library open and we chose to be closed the Saturday instead. We had many patrons in over the course of the evening.

Altona Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Rachael Friesen – continued

December - Book Club met in December, it was a great turn out and everyone enjoyed the book,

We had patron appreciation week during December, we collected \$51.30 for our local food bank and had snacks and hot apple cider to share with patrons.

During December we were invited to partner with the Altona Area Family Resource Center for a Celebrate the Season event at the MEC. The Rhineland Reeve, Altona Mayor, Fire Chief and a local Policeman all came to help read to the children. It was a great event!

At the end of December all the branches were very fortunate to be gifted a large donation of LEGO from Chris Abrams at Creations for Charity.

Manitou Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Angela Lovell

November - The Acorns to Oaks program had another two sessions in November and the kids are getting more comfortable with things like Show and Tell and sharing their 'homework' with everyone.

During November the library participated in several program and events, starting with Power of PJs for Genesis House. We also have a food donation box for the local Christmas Cheer board.

We were please to host 10 children at our Christmas Story Time with Xander on Saturday, November 24th. The kids had a great time completing the Christmas scavenger hunt after the story to earn a candy cane reward.

On Sunday, November 25th library staff co-hosted an Art Appreciation event in conjunction with the Opera House Art Gallery Board. Thank you to Tye Dandridge-Evancio, Programs Director at the Pembina Hills Art Gallery, who gave an informative talk about 'what is art?' as attendees toured the pieces on display. It was a successful co-operative event, and we hope to partner together on other projects in the future.

December - December 2 was the wrap up event for the Acorns to Oaks program and the kids enjoyed celebrating their 'graduation' with stories, a craft, Christmas video and a special show and tell where they were presented with their Graduation Certificate and a small treat bag.

December 10th, the library hosted its first Kids Christmas Market. We had three vendors selling their homemade creations and lots of shoppers stopped by, so the participants were happy with the event and would certainly come again next year.

For our December display we decided to celebrate the many different cultural and religious festivals held around the world, and we also held our Patron Appreciation draw for a gift basket.

We collected food items for the local Christmas Cheer Board throughout November and early December and donated \$17.10 in cash (\$12.10 was collected during the Food for Fines event and \$5 was a donation from a patron). We forgave \$10 in fines on our Amnesty Day – December 14.

The book club met on December 30 and is now up to 11 members.

Miami Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Raina Teigrob

December was a busy month starting with SCRL book held in Morden at the St. Paul's United Church. This was the first one I was able to properly help at, and it was nice to see how much work goes into it and what the entire process looked like from start to finish.

We swapped our DVD shelving unit with the Winkler branch for a regular set of metal shelving. We still have a few adjustments to make and shelving to fix but we love the look and the flow of our updated shelving now.

Miami Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Raina Teigrob – continued

Our clerk space also had a bit of a refresh and the makeshift desk is now replaced with an actual desk from the Altona branch.

On December 16th, I had the opportunity to attend a meeting with Joanna and two library board members regarding discussions of a delegation calling for book banning and defunding our libraries. In attendance were the Mayors and Reeves of the municipalities that our libraries serve. We felt the meeting went well and the discussion was productive.

This was also the month for a lot of snow, and I spent a few days working from home as well as from the Winkler library. Miami staff were able to make it into work when I couldn't, but we did close two days due to weather & poor highway conditions.

We were also able to celebrate our patrons with a Patron Appreciation Day! We offered amnesty for fines, hot apple cider and cookies, and had a free draw available for patrons to enter. We had some great visits and tasty snacks with our patrons on such a chilly day.

And finally, to top off the holidays we had a frozen sewer pipe burst in the shared bathrooms of the RM and library building. Water was running through the bathroom walls into the library (our clerk corner), but we were able to remove furniture and dry things out before any damage was done. Thankfully, it was all clear water. In addition to the sewer pipe issues, we also no longer have storage space in the back rooms of the RM/Library building as the RM really needs it and can no longer hold any of our larger items. There was already an issue with storage, as stuff like our Christmas tree is kept in Manitou due to lack of space. Now we must find places to store our larger items without disrupting the library space too much.

Morden Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Gail Hildebrand

November - As always, it was a quick month. This month's programming included Acorns to Oaks, Lego club and Pre-K story/craft time.

We got all our Christmas decorations up, the puzzle board out for the winter and the book sale behind us. Our second seasonal tic tac toe board in the kids' area has been a great hit, a quick activity with no explanation needed. We have also been setting out winter/Christmas themed coloring pages to take home, which seems to be appreciated by both the parents and the kids.

December - December was a fun month for everyone, with everything from Acorns to Oaks wrapping up to all the Christmas decorating. The beginning of our patron appreciation week went very well, with hot apple cider and snacks, until winter reared its ugly head and kept a lot of us indoors! Those that missed it due to the weather are all looking forward to it happening again.

Morden Branch is still quiet regarding the ongoing issues. The occasional patron comes into the library to express concerns, but we mostly experience positive conversations with people agreeing with SCRL's stance on the topic. Thank you to our city and municipality councils who have been so professional during everything. It is something our patrons have commented on time and time again.

Winkler Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Jess Martens

November - Lego Club continues to have excellent attendance and kids and parents are excited for it. Our Acorns to Oaks program has been a bit hit and miss, parents seem to be more interested in take home modules for their children rather than attending the in person sessions.



Winkler Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Jess Martens – continued

The Stan Hildebrand author visit was cancelled due to inclement weather but Caleb Winterburn the author of 'Ruinmaker' visited Winkler and we had 5 people attend. Our Yarn with Friends program and Books & Brew has had a slow but steady start.

In November we also welcomed three new staff members, Heidi will be our new Library Assistant, Britany our new clerk and Sarah will be our new casual clerk. We are looking forward to working with them.

December - December was a quiet month at the library. Our patron appreciation week went over well, and it was nice to have a way to recognize our patrons. We had our usual programming during the month and it's going well. Our Acorns to Oaks program was very hit or miss so we will be starting a different story time program in the new year in hopes that an adjusted program will be more suited for young families. We had a large Lego donation by Creations for Charity for all the branches, and we are looking forward to adding it to our existing Lego club.

Ten Thousand Villages was in our meeting room until Dec 27th, they said while they had less people in than last year, they had approximately the same value of merchandise sold. While it was nice to be able to have them in the space it does impact quite a few other things. We had to find alternate locations for all our programs, proctoring and had to turn down several groups and individuals looking to rent the room.

2022 was an interesting year. We had 7 staff quit throughout the year which really emphasized the need for positions with more hours. Positions with minimal hours are simply not sustainable and continuously training staff only to have them leave is taking its toll on the existing staff. Despite the staff turnover we achieved a lot this year. Our reading garden has progressed further than we could have dreamed, thanks to Martin Harder, grants and other generous donors. Originally, we anticipated the project would take several years to get the basic garden area finished, instead not only were we able to finish construction on the main garden area this year, but we were also able to add an additional pergola and a storage shed. The garden is not finished, but we will be adding plants and furniture in 2023.

Regarding the collection, we accomplished a lot in 2022. Almost every section in the library was full and in desperate need of weeding. We have weeded or rearranged most sections in the library and except for the Junior Non Fiction section which is a top priority for weeding and updating in 2023. We are also currently in the process of combining our Junior Series and Junior Fiction sections as it is no longer logical to have the sections separate and anticipate that will be finished in the new year. Our Adult Non Fiction section was weeded, and the removal of outdated material freed up quite a bit of room, allowing us to remove a shelf and create an additional study area. In 2022 we started several new programs in we are looking forward to continuing to grow our existing programs and add new programs and events for our patrons in 2023.
