

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

January is the month of deadlines & year-end wrap-up for the Office. This January ended with a change in personnel as Deb Petersen gave her notice and had her last day on the 28th. She started in the position as Cataloguer/Finance in 2016 when I moved into the Director's chair. We will continue to be in touch as she will be looking after our Little Free Libraries in Darlingford and LaRiviere. We hired Raina Teigrob as the new Office Manager, which is a new position for SCRL. We will be hiring another clerk for the Miami Branch to take over some of the shifts she will be leaving behind. I believe we will have good results for the Miami Branch with these changes. Also, I am looking forward to a year of positivity and promoting our libraries and services. We have come through a challenging year and we have so much to offer our patrons. Circulation and new members continue to increase, and the branches are doing an amazing job in keeping our patrons loaded with books, puzzles and other materials during the long evenings in January.

---

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

Starting off, I had the opportunity on Jan. 3 to go with Cathy and Gail to meet with Winkler City Council and discuss the ongoing book complaints issue. I was there to help answer any questions related to how our materials are catalogued and classified.

I was also busy preparing the 2023 block rotations made up of last year's DVDs, large print books, audiobooks, and playaways. A big thank you to Winkler staff for helping with all the labelling again.

I assisted Raina with purchasing additional Acorns to Oaks supplies with our remaining funds, and we also filmed another craft video which will be up in February.

---

### **Programmer Report – submitted by Raina Teigrob**

In January I spent time summarizing reviews from our volunteers, clerks and admins who helped with the Acorns to Oaks program. Overall, most staff felt positive about the program in general or had constructive criticism to offer. Thanks to all who offered advice and suggestions to better the program. Angela and her volunteers have also been a huge help in developing all the modules and will be revising them for the next season of Acorns this spring, while I will be sprucing up the "how to" section of running the program. Joanna and I have also been tasked with purchasing more supplies/books/gifts etc. for the program with the remaining funds we have from the grant.

February, is I Love to Read month so I spent some of January designing a scavenger hunt, checkout contest and patron picks display. I look forward to seeing how branches incorporate these and other ideas into their library in February.

---

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

We had more class tours and visits during January, we really enjoy that the schools and teachers are taking full advantage of what the library has to offer them!

Book Club met in January, this book was much less popular and we hope with our new novel, "The Ensemble, by Aja Gabel" that we will have a large turnout in February.

In January we had a PJ Party to celebrate family literacy, we were very fortunate to have the principals from Gretna, Elmwood and West Park schools in Altona, join us and read. We had a great time and are so thankful to all the patrons that came and participated.

During January the finishing touches for the fireplace and canopy were completed, it looks great!

---

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

February is I Love to Read month and also Black History month. We will have a display for Black History and we will be having a contest for I Love To Read, make sure you stop in and check everything out! We will also have our next Book Club meeting and we will be having a event to honour our donors.

---

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

Manitou branch partnered with the Pembina Manitou Outdoor Rink Committee to host a Family Skate & Story Night on January 25th at the Outdoor Rink in celebration of Family Literacy Night.

The event was a great success with more than 50 people attending to enjoy skating, snow painting, stories and hot chocolate, juice and cookies. A big thank you to Kathy Furniss and the Outdoor Rink committee volunteers for preparing the ice and organizing the snow painting, Manitou staff for making cookies and helping at the event, local volunteer readers, Elementary School Principal and to Boundary Trails Railway Company for sponsoring materials and providing gift bags for the kids.

This joint event helped create awareness and positivity for the library in the community, and among a demographic it may not always reach easily and was beneficial for both us and the Outdoor Rink. Everyone agreed we would like to partner on other events in the future.

Book Club met on January 28 with five members attending.

---

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

Miami had plans for Family Literacy Night on January 21st, with a local guest reader, snacks and a story time. Unfortunately, we didn't have any patrons show up. Despite the disappointment it was a good reminder that not everything works the same for every branch. We looked at some of our programs and have now introduced a Lego club (thanks to the donation from Chris and Melinda Abrams!) and a community-led book club. We hope that despite the low attendance we've had since reopening after covid that these events will bring people through our doors again. Our hopes were to target all age groups between the two new clubs, and so far, the response from the community has been encouraging.

In January we returned our 2022 block and received the first rotation of 2023's block. We have also been busy reviewing our current magazine subscriptions, discarding old copies, and picking out replacement subscriptions for 2023's order. I have slowly been working away on our winter order for Whitehots as well.

Miami will also be hiring a second clerk, and the branch admin position will move down to one shift a week in branch.

---

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

January has been steady; the nice weather has kept people coming in for books and puzzles.

After the city sent someone to put up some new shelving for us, we've kept busy shuffling things around. New shelves for the kids' movies freed up a larger shelf for the young adult area where we also were able to make some more floor space for people to come in and relax. Thank you to my husband for putting up several new pieces of slatwall and helping me move some of the larger pieces of shelving.

I had the chance to sit down with our building manager as well as his supervisor this month to pitch a renovation idea for the office/bathroom side of the building to make the space work much better for us, hopefully it's something they will consider since very little has been done, other than painting, to the building since we moved in 25 years ago.

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

Thanks to the generous Lego donation from Chris Abrams and Creations for Charity organization, we had almost 40 kids for Lego club this month!

Our Family Literacy PJ party was also a success (despite the weather forecast) with around 20 kids coming to hear our 3 guest readers. It's been great having in-house programming again!

---

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

January has flown by as we continued to work on various projects. We spent quite a bit of time processing the 2022 block items for all the branches and we continue to work on combining the JNF and JF sections. We had the usual programs in January, and they are all still going well, and our January book club meeting had the highest attendance yet despite poor weather. We also held our annual Family Literacy Night, and it was great to be able to do it in person rather than virtual. We had two guest readers, the principals of J.R. Walkof and Emerado Centennial Schools respectively and the children enjoyed their stories and they had a lot of fun.

February is I Love to Read month and we are planning to have several ongoing activities around the library throughout the month. Patrons will also receive prize tickets for checking out items from certain sections. In February we will also be starting our winter preschool story time term which will run for 6 weeks. Each session will have stories and crafts and will be held every Wednesday morning. In addition to our regular programming, we also have several school tours taking place this month as schools visit the library as part of their I Love to Read month programs. All in all, it's shaping up to be a busy month.

---