

Cataloguing Technician Report – Office – submitted by Joanna Dueck

No report this month.

Program Coordinator Report – submitted by Raina Teigrob

In December Bill Redekop did an author event at our Morden and Manitou branches, on his latest novel “Don’t Fence Me In: True Stories About Rural Manitoba”. The turnout was lower than we hoped, but we were happy to have him. In the future, unless we have a very anticipated guest, it may be best to avoid doing events during such a busy season.

Family Literacy Night is coming up and all branches will be inviting children down for a pajama party story session sometime in late January.

I have contacted Prairie Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre and setup four library visits for I Love to Read Month. The visits will consist of a story time with two animal friends the center brings along for the presentation. Often, they will bring birds, a squirrel or rabbit. Libraries will either be reaching out to schools to invite classes, or leaving it open to the public.

I am currently in contact with Conrad Stoesz regarding a Genealogy/Mennonite family history presentation for the Altona and Winkler branches in February. If Conrad agrees to visit the smaller branches, it will be in March or later.

Altona Branch Administrator’s Report – submitted by Rachael Friesen

December was a busy month, we started off with our book and bake sale. We made \$1505.50 with the book sale and \$438.00 with our bake sale!

The following week we had fines for food and raised over \$170.00 dollars for our local food bank. We had patron appreciation on our Thursday before the holidays with cookies and hot cider for our patrons to enjoy.

We ended the year a bit quieter on events, but busy with patrons, they really seem to be enjoying the new games we have for borrowing.

For January we will be having our annual PJ party and book club will be meeting.

Manitou Branch Administrator’s Report – submitted by Angela Lovell

The installation of our new outside book drop is finally complete and it’s operational. A huge thank you to Manitou’s “As Good as New Thrift Store” for its generous donation of \$1200 towards the cost. Many patrons have expressed gratitude for having a 24/7 returns service for their library items.

In early December, we held a Fines for Foods Day when patrons could donate their fines to the local Christmas Cheer Board. We were pleased to be able to pass on \$34.75 in donated fines, some food items and additional cash donations dropped off by our patrons.

The Kids Christmas Market on December 9 only had two vendors but did attract quite a few people so hopefully they will return if we decide to g-hold the market next year.

We also hosted author, Bill Redekop on December 12, and although only seven people attended, he did sell quite a few books as some patrons had already ordered and left payment because they could not attend.

Manitou Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Angela Lovell – continued

Around 12 people enjoyed some hot apple cider and cookies on our Patron Appreciation Day on December 13.

We would like to thank local jewelry maker, Dianne Burkitt, for her kind donation of bookmarks as a fundraiser for the Manitou Branch. They have been very popular in the run up to Christmas.

It is with regret that we have said goodbye to casual clerk, Kristin. We are currently advertising for a replacement to cover one Saturday a month, and for a person to do snow removal in the new year on an as-needed basis.

Miami Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Raina Teigrob

Though our patron numbers were a bit lower in the month of December, the library still felt busy. Preparing for Christmas included a bulletin board display, hanging décor, seasonal book displays and keeping our Christmas books well stocked. We were glad to have an after-hours work party to celebrate the season and enjoyed testing out the new board game collection. Patrons really showed up for our Patron Appreciation Day and we had a great time enjoying snacks and hot apple cider together with our awesome community. We had two days for our Fines for Food and put just about \$30.00 towards the Christmas Cheer Board collection.

Something I neglected to mention last month was our grant received from Miami and Area Foundation for \$1000 towards the purchase of a new projector/equipment. We really look forward to sprucing up our setup for movies/author events.

Thanks to our community for all their support in 2023, and Happy New Year!

Morden Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Gail Hildebrand

December was a month of planning! We have been getting some dates nailed down for renovating our front desk area and are excited to have some dates set to start!

December saw a lot of puzzle circulation as well as the new games we got in. Patrons are very excited to be able to test-drive games they might be interested in. Our radon kits are also all out, they didn't even make it out onto the floor for display!

Some of the events we hosted this month were:

Bill Redekopp, author of "Don't Fence Me In".

Our second book club meeting with "Beneath a Scarlet Sky" as our book.

Patron appreciation days with hot apple cider and dainties

On to a new year, to doing more for, and with our patrons!

Winkler Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Jess Martens

We started December with the book and art sale at the Winkler Arts and Culture Centre. Despite some issues with set up, but we were busy, and we raised \$800. Our first Creatives Connect evening went well and we will be holding two evenings every month. Participants enjoyed being able to socialize and share their projects with others in the community. Our Christmas story time evening was a lot of fun and it's something we will be looking at doing again in 2024.



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

We've had issues with the glass doors separating the front entrance from the main library four times this year. The glass doors being inoperable limits the meeting room bookings to only during open hours. We will be requesting they are replaced with a different system in the new year.

In January we have quite a few programs lined up. We are holding a crochet granny square workshop at the beginning of the month and a crochet marathon at the end of the month. All the afghans that are made will go to the Eden Mental Health Center.

Our winter story time session starts mid-January, and we are looking forward to it. Britany and Kelly did a great job previously and the kids enjoyed the different characters for each theme. At the end of the month, we will be holding our annual Family Literacy Night Pajama Party. Our theme is 'Under the Sea' and it should be a fun event for the kids. All our usual programs like Books & Brew, Nerf Battle, and Lego Club will of course be happening throughout the month as well. We are no longer partnering with the Winkler Arts and Culture Center for Books & Brew. The director position has changed hands so now the book club will be hosted by the library. In January we will also start planning I Love to Read Month activities for February. 2024 is off to a busy start.
