

July 2024 Branch Reports

Cataloguing Technician Report – Office – submitted by Joanna Dueck

In July my time was split between cataloguing the books from our summer orders that are still arriving weekly and working on a few side projects.

All our book club kits (except for 2) have been reprocessed and distributed among our Winkler, Morden, and Altona branches.

Raina and I ordered a large batch of 60 new board games! The majority are titles we don't have in our collection yet, but we have also purchased additional copies of board games we already own that have been popular with our patrons. I have been busy cataloguing those so over half are done already and waiting to be processed.

I also finally placed an order for Junior Playaways and audiobooks so those should be arriving shortly. I will be ordering YA audio soon as well.

Programmer Report – submitted by Raina Teigrob

July was a busy month for all of our branches and programmers! Our final signup numbers were:

Altona: 181

Manitou: 64

Miami: 70

Morden: 413

Winkler: 670 for a grand total of 1398 children for the Bookland Explorers Club

...and our Teen Reads program at a total of 188. Teen signups were surprisingly high this summer, which just goes to show that teens are willing to participate and do come to our libraries when we offer something for their demographic.

Windups are taking place in August and we're starting to wind down the programs. Winkler is going back to a carnival style event, Morden is at the drive-in, Manitou is hosting their annual fun day, Altona has a pool day booked, and Miami is hosting a mini carnival as well. Programmers will meet in August to wrap up any loose ends and share notes, as well as vote on our theme for next summer!

Altona Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Rachael Friesen

July has been a very busy month. We currently have 181 children signed up for Bookland Explorers and 33 teens signed up for the teen program. The Bookland Explorers club has been a hit, and we've had many activities running throughout the month. Colour your own book bag has been a favourite and we are very grateful to Rendezvous Fitness Centre for sponsoring this so that it has been free for the participants in Altona. Perler beads was another high interest activity, and we will be doing a second session of that in August!

This year we only had one summer programmer, and she has done an amazing job, and the staff has been very good about stepping in to help wherever needed, we would not be able to run this program without such a fantastic team dynamic.

August has many more activities planned to include our pool party sponsored by the Altona Elks #447. We look forward to finishing out the summer strong!



July 2024 Branch Reports

Manitou Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Angela Lovell

Manitou branch set a record for gate count in July with 999 people coming through the door (oh for just one more!). We have 64 kids registered for our summer program and 6 for the teen program. Our summer reading programmer, Cherri, also hosted 201 children for the summer program activities, so with additional programs offered, the total number attending programming was 230. A phenomenal month for our branch – great work everyone!

We also got to work in the garden, weeding, putting down mulch and preparing the area for our new shed which should arrive in early August. Thanks to the Municipality of Pembina for the paving slabs to put it on and to volunteer, John who came to assist with the garden and the heavy lifting for our Book and Bake sale.

We hosted a successful bake and book sale on July 5 and 6 at the library and raised \$737. Thank you to everyone who contributed books and baking to this event. We are looking forward to a busy August and our annual Fun Day on August 14th.

Miami Branch Administrator's Report - submitted by Raina Teigrob

Miami has been busy with our summer programs! Sevana's done a great job running our BEC program and keeping things going. We had 21 more signups from last summer, not including our teen program of 10 participants. Our most popular events have been the Ozobots, creating with clay, and watercolors. Currently we're preparing for our windup on August 17th. We will be running outdoor games and having snacks with the kids, and like a mini carnival, they can win leftover store prizes. We will also be announcing our winners at the end of the event. Special thanks to Deb Weir in Miami who partnered with us to provide materials for our programs.

In August we look forward to hosting our first Astro club event, taking place Aug 9th at Alexander Ridge Park.

Morden Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Gail Hildebrand

July has been a busy month, but we were prepared for it, we do look forward to it each year. We ended our enrollment with 413 children. Our gate count was just over double what we had in June.

Week one was crazy busy with enrollment and books going out as usual and despite having a new clerk and a new casual clerk, things went very smoothly.

The crafts have had a consistent number of kids coming in. Story time has been hit or miss; we have more success in the morning sessions. Crafts are worth running but rarely full at 25 children. That's very much in line with programming the rest of the year – it's a good problem to have that we have a lot of competition for free programming in the community. The Summer Programmers and their volunteers have done a great job, it has been very hands off for the regular staff this year.

The Morden Elks have agreed to sponsor our big activity for the summer, which will be an evening at the drivein movie theatre on August 7th.

We had an incident a while ago where a patron on a mobility scooter couldn't get out of one of our main washrooms. Our facilities manager had a local contractor in to provide an estimate to widen the doors and install buttons to open the new doors. The City of Morden has agreed to cover that quoted amount of almost \$11,000 to do the work as soon as possible. Cathy has applied for a grant that would allow us to do more work right away, such as higher toilets, accessible height sinks, mirrors, etc. Hopefully we will hear back shortly, as the grant application closes mid-July. We will need to have further conversations with the City about widening the staffroom and admin office doors since they do not meet accessibility standards either. We need a solid decision on whether there is a new building in our immediate future.



July 2024 Branch Reports

Winkler Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Jess Martens

We have 670 kids registered for the Bookland Explorers program, the highest turnout we've had in the last 5 years. We had 376 kids participate in workshops and story times in July. The Teen Reads program is also going very well with much higher turnout than we expected. The summer has been going well, we've been busy, but the kids have been enjoying it. Manitoba Underground Opera also put on a performance that was well attended and the kids and parents liked having something different.

The city has started the process of adding a dishwasher to the staff room which we received funding for through the Winkler Community Foundation. The city is also looking at replacing the lights in the library and adding screens to the windows in the front entrance, which would be wonderful for summer since it does get quite warm in there. The summer students also noticed an intermittent melted plastic smell in the meeting room and the maintenance guys investigated but so far haven't been able to find where it's coming from.

In August we will be finishing up the summer program, we are doing a carnival for the Bookland Explorers windup and a quiz night for the teen windup. We are looking forward to seeing how the teen quiz night goes since our teen participation is high.

The Heritage Archives are also supposed to be moving out at the end of September so we'll working on timelines and plans for the space. At the end of September, we will be closing for 3 days to move the Adult Fiction, Inspirational Fiction, DVD, Adult Non-Fiction, Young Adult, Large Print, German and puzzle sections. This allows us to increase visibility for sections that are currently hard to find like the Large Print, adds more room in the Adult Fiction section and moves the Young Adult section closer to the new teen/multipurpose room that will be in the former Heritage Archives space. Once the shelves are moved, we'll also add slatwall to the ends of the shelves to make the smaller sections more accessible. It will be a busy month