



Cataloguing Technician Report – Office – submitted by Joanna Dueck

December was a slow month for book deliveries, so I continued to catch up on the back log and have been clearing space on my shelves to make room for our upcoming winter orders that will be placed in January. I also started cataloguing our recent board game purchases which should be ready to go on shelves within the first few weeks of January.

Program Coordinator Report – submitted by Britany Morgan

December has been a fun month! Many branches had their holiday programming at the beginning of the month. Some branches participated in helping children send and receive Santa letters, which was incredibly heartwarming to see. I have worked on a new format for “Novel Experiences” so December’s posts have been finishing up the old reviews we had, I am very excited to show the public in the New Year the improvements we’ve made. I am almost completely prepared for ‘I Love To Read’ month. I am excited for what the New Year will bring.

Altona Branch Administrator’s Report – submitted by Rachael Friesen

We started out the month with our silent book club, and then had a Christmas ornament craft that was well received. We continued with our Coffee & Chat and our Deck the Hall series, the collaboration with the Altona & Area Family Resource Centre was well attended all through December and we hope to partner with them in the future. We still had the schools bringing in classes right up until the holiday break and were thankful for the extra time they spent here.

The week before the holiday we had fines for food in branch, we collected all fines and donated them to the Rhineland and Area food bank, we were able to collect \$84.40 for the food bank and will be delivering that in the new year.

December we also said goodbye to a long-time staff member, Julie retired at the end of the month, and we are sad to see her go, but excited for her new adventure in life. We had a small private dinner with her and hope to see her often in branch as a patron.

In January we will be celebrating Family Literacy with our annual PJ party, we will have some very special guests for reading from the Altona Police Service and are excited to see all the children. We will also have a nerf battle and our silent book club.

Manitou Branch Administrator’s Report – submitted by Angela Lovell

December has been a busy month with Christmas programming, starting with a Write a Letter to Santa day on December 14 that included a craft and snack. Only one child wanted to leave their letter with us, but he got a nice reply from Santa! We also ran a Christmas Art competition for kids and had lots of entries that were so incredible it was hard to choose the winners. Congratulations to winners: Beatrix, Kenzie and Annabelle and runners up: Evangeline, Rosemary and Paisley. Finally, we held a Christmas ornament making craft on December 21 and Lego Club was December 27.

We also put together some grab and go packages for patrons to pick up last minute that included books, movies, puzzles and games for the whole family to enjoy over the holidays.

Our branch Christmas party was held on December 5, and was also a farewell to retiring clerk, Susan Pharaoh.

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

Staff did a major weed of the Adult Non-Fiction section in preparation for some rearranging in the New Year, and we have also created a separate local history section adjacent to the reading area. With the postal strike over, things should start getting back to normal and we will resume inter-library loans in early January when the mail backlog has been cleared.

Miami Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Raina Teigrob

December in Miami was busy with events. To start the month off, we launched our fundraiser “Deck the Paws,” in support of PVHS. We collected a nice box of pet supplies and cash donations to drop off in the new year. To help us celebrate, Baxter from PVHS came by to hang with us for an afternoon at our meet n’ greet. We will most definitely run this program again next December. Staff also hosted a holiday themed craft event of ornament decorating. Attendance was low but we were glad to still offer it to those who came. Patron Appreciation was held for one day on Dec 17th also with low attendance. We offered cookies and apple cider. We also opted not to have a board games night this month and instead will revamp the program for the new year as we’ve had little success with attendance. LEGO club, Crafters & Co., and book club ran as regularly scheduled.

In January we will be focusing on our Crafters & Co night that we’re combining with our Crochet-a-thon, and Family Literacy night. Some programs we hope to try next year are a puzzle competition, cookbook club, a 2-part character creation/paint night for miniatures, and a special author visit for ‘I Love To Read’ Month.

Morden Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Gail Hildebrand

This month we hosted Lego Club, Perler bead decoration afternoon and patron appreciation days. We had to postpone the author visit due to the weather but look forward to rescheduling the event in January or February.

Fines for Food, in support of the Morden Christmas Cheer Board, was successful. We raised \$115 to help our community have a better Christmas.

As soon as the Christmas/winter decorations went up, the seasonal books started flying off the shelves and displays. As always, the puzzles and games were popular, and we had quite a few donations again to refresh our collection.

With the freezing temperatures, came our frozen back door. It’s been an ongoing issue for the 4 years I have been here, thanks to our city manager, Nicole Reidle, for taking care of that for us and getting us new locks.

Morden had a peculiar month with people in mental or physical distress coming in. While it’s positive that we are seen as a safe place for people to be, it’s also concerning for staff and patron safety. It is definitely something to look into and come up with a clear guide for how to handle these events in the future.

Winkler Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Jess Martens

December was a busy month, and we had several Christmas themed programs including cookie decorating and an ugly sweater workshop, both went reasonably well. Our usual programs are going well, Books & Brew took a break for Christmas, but the other programs are getting consistent attendance. Switching the Nerf battles to Monday has been a success and attendance averages about 50 people each month. Several parents have said they prefer the Monday dates because there are less conflicts with other after school activities. The Cookbook Club is also going very well, and people seem to be enjoying it. Since Canada Post was on strike, we partnered with Festive Winkler so the kids could drop off their Santa letters at the library and get a response.



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

In December we also added another bank to the Junior Easy shelving, giving us more room and opening up the section a bit. We also integrated the Mennonite Collection with the regular adult nonfiction, it gives us more room for puzzles and games and we're hoping it will circ more if patrons don't have to go to a different spot in the library to find it.

Overall, 2024 has gone very well. Our circ has increased and our programming is going well. The added Wednesday hours are doing well, adding programming is definitely helping people realize we are open. We've been able to partner with community organizations and more people seem to be remembering the library is here. The big move we made in September was well received and fixed several of the issues we had with various sections. The reading garden is doing well and being used on a regular basis. In 2025 the focus will be on the teen room project and getting that up and running. I'll also be looking into ways to increase the library's visibility in the community, we've recently added a light up open sign so people can see driving past that we are open. However, there are still quite a few people in the community that don't realize we're here or what the library offers,

January is going to be a full month. We have several workshops planned to include paper quilling and crochet workshops. We are of course holding our usual Family Literacy Night and this year is jungle themed. Last year we held a crochet marathon, and we are planning one again for this year. So far we've donated over 20 afghans to Eden Mental Health. We are also holding a Crokinole tournament at the end of the month. In January I am also going to be working on weeding our junior section, it's the last section that needs a deep weed so it will be nice to get that done. Some of January will also be spent prepping for 'I Love To Read' month, we are looking forward to the Chronicles of Narnia theme and the patrons are going to have fun with it. January is going to be busy, but we are looking forward to starting off the new year with a bang.
