

**Parkland County Library Board
Council Report June 2013
Submitted by Kathy Gardiner, Library Manager**

Parkland County Municipal Libraries of Duffield, Entwistle, Keephills, and Tomahawk have all seen great accomplishments over the past year.

Our success over the past year is attributed to the hard work of our library staff: Brenda Baron (Duffield Library), Chris Goerz (Tomahawk Library), Deb Ramsay (Keephills Library), Karen Gibb (Entwistle Library), and Cheryl Taillieu (Entwistle Library). As a team, the staff develop new programs, generate ideas from each other, and support one another. This team work has really contributed to the confidence and enthusiasm that our staff have towards their library and their community.

In addition, our success is also attributed to the partnerships and growing relationships between our partner libraries, local community organizations, and the Yellowhead Regional Library System.

It is also the continued support of Parkland County, and the funds they contribute to libraries, that allow us to provide exceptional library services to our residents.

The following document provides a narrative account of some exciting projects that are happening at our service point libraries, some partner library initiatives, and board accomplishments that have happened in 2012. The final pages consist of comparison charts that demonstrate accomplishments, and new trends in libraries, from 2009-2012.

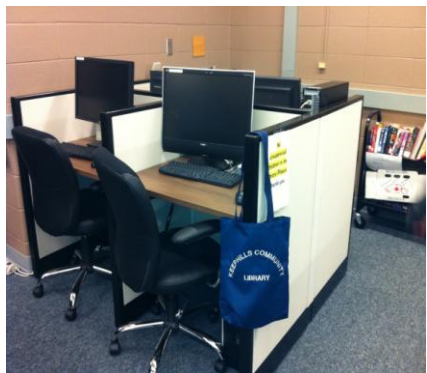
Library Renovations

Most of 2012 was planning and preparing for renovations at each of the libraries. As part of our Plan of Service goal to have visitors "Visit a Comfortable Place", we wanted to modernize our libraries to continue to be at the heart of the community.

We completed renovations at Keephills Library in the fall of 2012. We were fortunate to be recipients of the Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund through the Federal Government and received \$9700.00 towards the Keephills Library Project. Library users looked forward to a modernized learning space including: a new circulation desk, computer workstations, interior upgrades, and a new outdoor sign. Having these improvements enable the Parkland County Library Board to continue to promote culture, arts and literacy, while enhancing learning and skills development opportunities for residents in the community and surrounding areas.

We just recently finished renovations at Entwistle Library where we were fortunate to share in some of the cost with Parkland School Division. Renovations at Entwistle Library included: new paint, new carpet and a reorganization of the space. We thank Principals and school staff for all of their support in helping us make the library a special and important place in their schools. In addition to the renovations at Entwistle Library, Entwistle School and Public Library are also undergoing a Community Learning Commons where digital literacy and community learning and engagement will take place.

An important part of our renovation plan is to ensure that awareness of our public libraries is happening in our communities. In all of our library communities, directional library highway signs are now in place which contributes to our awareness objective.



Partnerships

Take Time to Read Initiative and Little Free Libraries Project



Kathy Gardiner and Corrie Rhyasen Erdman, Parkland Adult Literacy Coordinator, at the Carvel Little Free Library. Corrie was fortunate to receive a donation of more than 50 new books from Frontier College in Ontario to use for the little libraries.

The Tri-Community Libraries throughout Parkland County, Spruce Grove, and Stony Plain have partnered with Parkland Adult Literacy and Green Hectares to offer people access to reading material at their own convenience with the "Take Time to Read" initiative and the "Little Free Library" project.

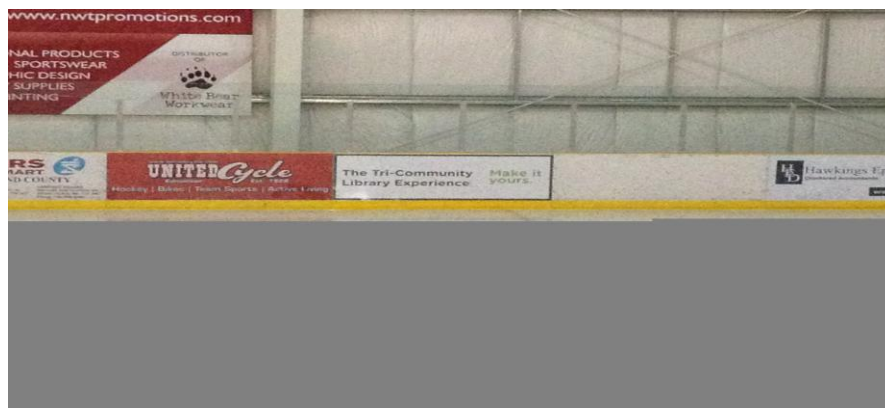
In a continuing effort to promote reading and literacy throughout the Tri-Community, The Spruce Grove Public Library developed the *Take Time to Read* initiative. Residents of Spruce Grove, Stony Plain, and Parkland County will notice baskets filled with books at various locations in their communities acting as 'little libraries'. Residents are encouraged to take a book to read and then either loan it to a friend or return it to an area library. People can also leave a book for others to enjoy too. One 'little library' location is the Tri Leisure Centre. It houses a shelving unit that displays about 20 books at a time and is conveniently located so people can grab a book to read while they are working out or waiting for their program to start.

The "Little Free Library" project was brought forth by Barb Scully at Green Hectares and Stephanie Sabadaska of Carvel Hall who established the idea from the little free library website: www.littlefreelibrary.org. The mission behind the "Little Free Library" is to build a sense of community while fostering the love of reading. The communities of Carvel and Spring Lake have a little free library mounted outside so people can access reading material 24/7. Residents in those communities have come together to build the little free library that is unique to their community. Community members shared their skills, creativity and knowledge in building a little library in their community.

These 'little libraries' undoubtedly offer convenience and simplicity to our residents by providing barrier-free access to materials. Much more than this though, these displays are building a sense of community with the act of exchanging and sharing books with one another.

"The Tri-Community Library Experience: Make it Yours" Campaign

Together with our partner libraries of Spruce Grove, Stony Plain, Seba Beach, Wabamun, Devon and Drayton Valley we were recipients of The Alberta Library Funding "Make it Yours Campaign" for a Rink Advertisement at the Tri Leisure Centre. We are confident that it was our joint application that helped contribute to our successful outcome.



Southern Alberta Library Conference

I was invited to speak about the successes of our libraries and the different levels of partnerships that we have developed and maintained at the Southern Alberta Library Conference in March 2013. My presentation was titled: "Small Libraries, Big Results: partnerships and collaboration in four rural, school-housed public libraries".

Programming

We are so pleased that our libraries are becoming places for lifelong learning, entertainment, and community gatherings. Our programs have been developed based upon our Needs Assessment and Plan of Service goals and objectives: "Early Literacy", "Visit a Comfortable Place", "Stimulate Imaginations: Reading, Viewing, and Listening for Pleasure", "Satisfy Curiosity: Lifelong Learning", and "Connect to the Online World".

We had a total of 232 program sessions in 2012 with 2241 participants. Our programs included "Health and Wellness @ the Library" series that focuses on programs pertaining to fitness, nutrition, and wellness. We offer Yoga classes and Zumba classes and provide yoga Kits, equipped with everything one needs to experience yoga in the comfort of their own home, for patrons to borrow with their library card.

Adult and kids craft clubs have developed at Entwistle and Keephills Library respectively. One Saturday a month, participants gather at Entwistle Library for a facilitated lesson on making a particular craft. The after school program at Keephills Library, every other Wednesday, has kids participating in scrapbooking.

Book clubs remain a popular program that we offer. Our book clubs include: "The Hatchet City Readers" of Tomahawk, "Wistle 'N Book Club" of Entwistle, and "The Afternoon Book Club" of Keephills.

Technology

Electronic circulation, including eBooks and audiobooks, considerably increased for our patrons in 2012. Interesting to note that our print material circulation decreased from 2011 while our electronic circulation nearly doubled; this is a trend that libraries across the nation are experiencing.

Our website www.pcmlibraries.ab.ca had 3, 346 visits in 2012, an increase from 3,110 visits in 2011. In addition, patrons can now search the trapac catalogue with the new mobile App for iPods and iPads and Android devices.

Many patrons have responded to programs and interesting facts we post on our Facebook page; like us at <https://www.facebook.com/pcmlibraries>

Parkland County Library Board Accomplishments

Parkland County Library Board (PCLB) has accomplished many of their own goals this past year. In April 2012, PCLB presented a funding formula to their partner libraries and opened the lines of communication with their partner library boards and staff for feedback on the formula.

The revised formula is based on access, including variables such as: library hours, memberships, and collection size.

PCLB invited the Town of Stony Plain Library Board and City of Spruce Grove Library Board to attend their October 2012 board meeting and their November 2012 board meeting, respectively, to hear feedback on the funding formula.

Kerry Anderson from the Public Library Services Branch visited the library board in September 2012 to discuss board policies, review some board basics, and to review and discuss PCLB's funding formula.

The board invited Kevin Dodds, director of Yellowhead Regional Library (YRL), to attend their November 2012 meeting to learn more about YRL services and the new Alberta Wide Borrowing project that will be in place in 2013.

Statistics Service Point Libraries

