

**Parkland County Municipal Library Board
Council Report May 2012
Submitted by Kathy Conn, Library Manager**

Parkland County Municipal Libraries of Duffield, Entwistle, Keephills, and Tomahawk have all seen great accomplishments over the past year. It is an exciting time for libraries, and our libraries are right in the heart of it! We are excited to be open longer hours, offering more programs to people of all ages, providing technology training and support, and becoming a gathering place for people in the community.

Our success over the past year is warranted to the hard work of our library staff at each location. We hired a new employee to help cover vacation and sick time at all of the locations and to help with programming and services at Entwistle Public Library. All our staff has been enthusiastic about implementing new programs in their library, embracing technology changes, and reinventing their roles in response to library trends and changing environments.

Our libraries successes are also attributed to the partnerships and growing relationships between our partner libraries, local community organizations, and the Yellowhead Regional Library System. We appreciate the support that Yellowhead Regional Library (YRL) is giving us directly as they are supplying an office space for the library manager who is made to feel as part of their staff and team. As well, we cannot forget the support that YRL gives our libraries with training opportunities and operational duties. Spruce Grove and Stony Plain Public Libraries have also built a great relationship with our staff and board in library promotion, carpooling to conferences, and board meet and greet social events. Furthermore, with all of our partner libraries, we continue to conduct cross training events so that staff members can experience working in a different environment.

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

The following document provides a narrative account of our library accomplishments and successes over the past year. The final pages consist of comparison charts that demonstrate these accomplishments from 2009-2011.

New Staff

In April 2011, Parkland County Library Board (PCMLB) hired a new part-time employee to assist with public library duties at Entwistle Public Library and to cover holiday time and sick time at the other service point libraries as well. As a result of having our new employee, Cheryl Taillieu, more programs have been developed, hours of opening have increased, and library closures have decreased.

Hours of Operation

Our hours of operation have steadily increased over the past few years as we have recognized the demand for evening hours, more programs, and Saturday hours.

With the help of our new employee we have extended our hours at Entwistle library to every other Saturday and two evenings a week. At Tomahawk Library we are now open Fridays.

All of our 4 service point libraries are now open a minimum of 24hrs/week between September and June, and 20hrs/week during July and August.

Our libraries are also open at least one Saturday per month. In Entwistle and Duffield, Saturdays are frequented by patrons using the computers and getting materials, and in Tomahawk and Keephills, various programming, like the scrapbooking club, will hold their meetings on Saturdays.

Programming

Programming continues to be one of our great successes. 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".

A total of 35 programs were offered at our libraries in 2011 with a total of 206 sessions offered and 2,908 number of participants; these numbers more than doubled from last year!

Our first Summer Reading Program at Entwistle Library was held last summer and "The Wistle'N book club of Entwistle Library" began in September 2011. Both were a great success; Wistle'N Book Club meets the 4th Thursday of every month and we are excited to continue with a Summer Reading Program again this year.



We started a Health & Wellness @ Your Library series that focuses on programs pertaining to fitness, nutrition, and wellness. We are currently in our 3rd 10 week session of yoga classes, and we are now thrilled to be offering Zumba classes. We even have 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.



All of the libraries have the Wii. During the Alberta Winter Games, we held Wii Winter Sports Tournaments and this continues to be a hit amongst the teens in our communities especially during after school hours.



At Duffield Library we showcased our first traveling art exhibit from the Alberta Foundation of the Arts titled "Capturing Momentum: Sports in Motion" which was on display for the month of December; It was a great display to have in gearing up for the Alberta Winter Games.

Technology

Technology continues to be at the forefront of our training and has become an essential part of our services at the libraries. We are proud to offer eReaders for patrons to take home and borrow with their library card. eReaders have become an essential part of our book clubs as it offers another 'copy' of some popular titles.

Programming on the basis of technology has been a big part of what our libraries are offering. We held a 'techy-night' after Christmas holidays and invited a technology trainer from YRL to help facilitate the program. The program allowed for people to look, touch, and learn about all of the new devices and eReaders that are available. The program also helped people learn how to use their own devices that some had gotten as Christmas gifts.

We have a website www.pcmlibraries.ab.ca that saw 3,110 visits in 2011. Our website allows for people to place holds on titles, manage their accounts, and see what is happening at the library 24/7. In addition, patrons can search tracpac right at their fingertips with the new mobile Apps – YourLibrary and Tracpac iLibrary for Android. We are also on Facebook; like us at <https://www.facebook.com/pcmlibraries>

Partnerships

Partner Libraries

We have continued to build our relationships with our partner libraries. PCMLB hosted a board/staff meet and greet evening in July 2011 that was held at the Wabamun Public Library. The tri-board of Spruce Grove, Stony Plain, and PCMLB had their annual meet and greet evening at Stony Plain Public Library. And just recently, PCMLB hosted a funding formula meet and greet evening where they presented a revised funding formula to all of the partner libraries. Building the relationship with partner libraries has yielded so many benefits for all parties. Some examples include: attending conferences together to share in costs, cross-training at different libraries for staff to experience what it is like to work in a small or larger library setting, and promotion of library services.

Spruce Grove, Stony Plain, and Parkland County Libraries continue to promote their library services with a display at the Tri-Leisure Centre. We also attend conferences and trade fairs in the community where we have a table to promote library services and programs for all Parkland County Libraries; we have had positive feedback from residents saying that they like seeing all of the libraries being represented at the conference. We also work together on press releases for the newspaper as well as submitting book reviews every week to the Reporter/Examiner.



We are excited to welcome the W.O.W (Words on Wheels) program van from Drayton Valley Municipal Library to Tomahawk. W.O.W is an early literacy program that combines stories, rhymes, songs, and finger plays for babies and their caregivers. Preschoolers and kindergartens at Tomahawk school are also able to take advantage of this program. W.O.W has agreed to facilitate a Summer Reading Program at Tomahawk this summer and in addition we are cost sharing for a summer concert that will be held at both Drayton Valley and Tomahawk Libraries.

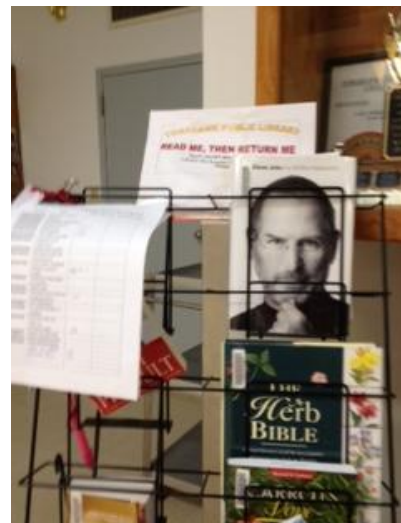
Our residents are receiving great benefits from working closely with our Partner Libraries.

Below illustrates the usage of Parkland County residents at our Partner Libraries.

Partner Libraries	Total Use at Partner Libraries	Parkland County Use	Total Percentage
Spruce Grove	299390	80327	27.00%
Stony Plain	213922	80896	38.00%
Seba Beach	4821	2171	45.00%
Wabamun	13866	6977	50.00%
Devon	67839	21713	32.00%
Drayton Valley	48532	1851	26.00%

Community Organizations

Tomahawk Library has created a "Read Me and Return Me" library display at the AgriCentre. Visitors to the AgriCentre can read these books at their own convenience without coming into the library. The display gets rotated every 2-4 weeks.



Green Hectares

We had the Green Hectares Community Facilitator visit Entwistle Library and community members from Tomahawk attended as well. We are looking forward to utilizing their programs and working with them in providing technology throughout our community. We have extended the use of our library space for the group to house meetings and programs, so we feel this partnership is very beneficial to both parties.

Parkland County

Staff at Parkland County have been a huge benefit to PCMLB members and staff as they provide payroll for our six employees and mentorship with personnel and human resource-related information. We are grateful for this partnership as it affords our staff to have direct deposit while relieving payroll duties for the board treasurer.

We are grateful for the continued support of Parkland County for the funds they contribute to help us provide library services to county residents and visitors.

Board Accomplishments

PCMLB has also accomplished many of their own goals over the past couple of years. PCMLB has opened the lines of communication with staff by holding their monthly meetings at each of the library locations. At these meetings it gives the board an opportunity to meet with staff, tour the libraries, and meet the Principals of the schools.

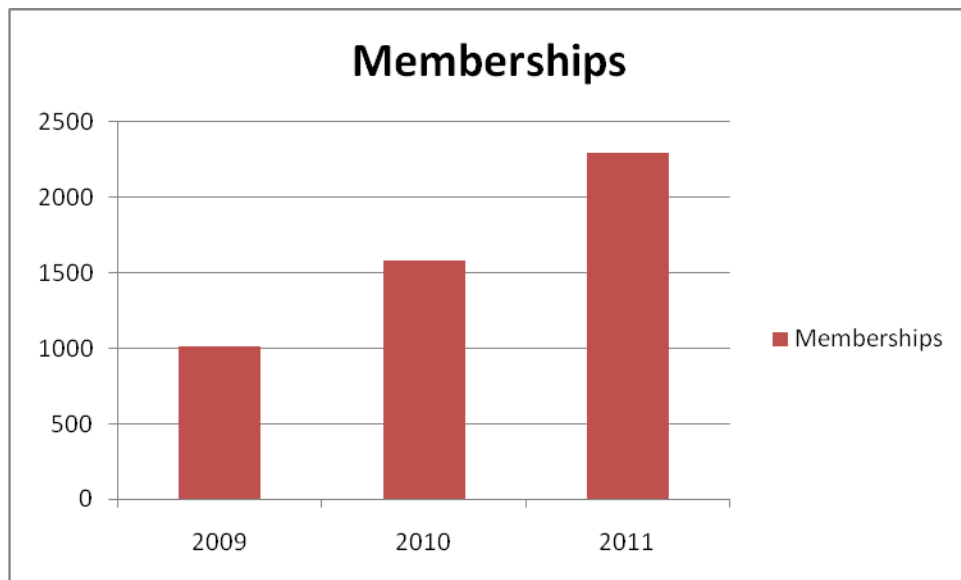
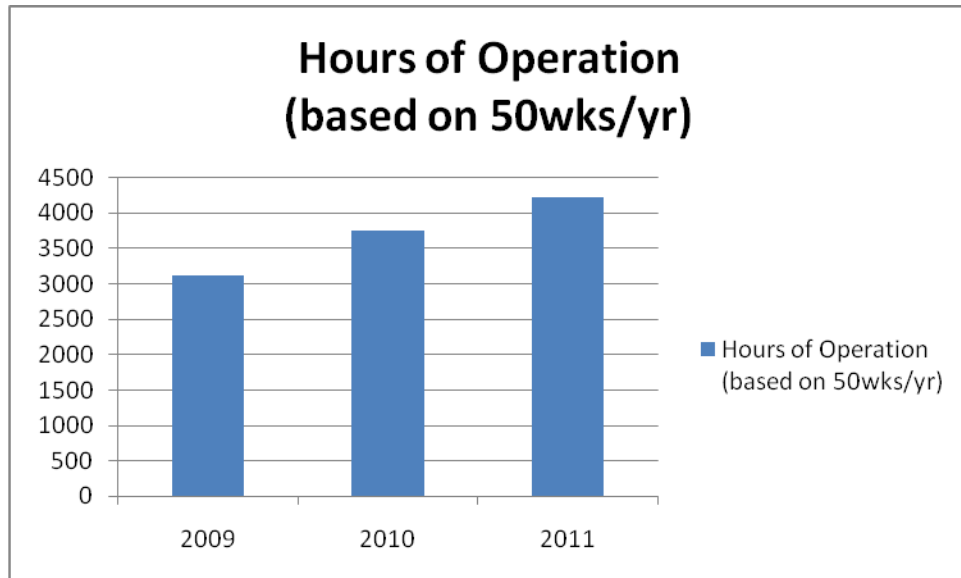
The PCMLB and Parkland School Division agreement was recently revised and signed by both parties. PCMLB has also updated many of their policies to coincide with the various changes in the technology and delivery of library services.

PCMLB created a revised funding formula model that they presented to their Partner Libraries in April 2012. After much consideration, the revised formula is based on access including variables such as: library hours, memberships, and collection size.

PCMLB has also hosted a board social event with Wabamun and Seba Beach and have participated in many other board social events hosted by Spruce Grove and Stony Plain Libraries.

STATISTICS

Service Point Libraries



Service Point Libraries

