



The Trustee

Volume 7, Issue 3

Fall 2015

Of Special Interest:

- President's Message
- Life Membership Award
- Libraries Matter Campaign
- More Than Just Books: Why Libraries Matter in Canada
- 2016 SLA Conference
- Saskatchewan Libraries Happy Hour

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President's Message

Since our last newsletter, the SLTA has continued its work of advocating for libraries in Saskatchewan. During the past several months we have become involved in two initiatives that we believe will benefit our libraries.

The first initiative is the Trustee Development Seminars. The Agenda for the workshops is almost finalized. Presenters will include Donna Challis, former Director of Lakeland and Audrey Mark, Library Director for PNLs. Trustee Development sessions have been planned for Prince Albert, Saskatoon and Regina. Each of the nine member regions will have an opportunity to participate. The Prince Albert workshop will include representatives from Wapiti, Lakeland and PNLs (October 31); the Saskatoon workshop will include representatives from SPL, Parkland and Wheatland (November 7); the Regina workshop will include representatives from RPL, Southeast and Chinook (November 14). Non members are welcome with a cost recovery fee.

I would invite any and all Trustees to attend. I think this will be a great opportunity to learn new skills and to pass those skills on to others in your region. If you are at all interested, please contact your Library Director or Nancy Kennedy, our Executive Director for additional information. I look forward to meeting you at the Workshops.

SLTA has become involved in a province wide advocacy campaign to raise the profile of Saskatchewan libraries. Our slogan for the campaign is "Libraries Matter".

The initiative consists of two parts - writing letters to local MLAs and a Comment Card campaign. We

are urging all trustees and patrons to write letters to their local MLA stressing the value of libraries and the need to adequately fund Saskatchewan libraries.

As an adjunct to the letter writing, we have Comment Cards available in all member libraries for patrons to fill out. The cards have blank spaces on them which allows patrons to describe why libraries are important to them. If you haven't already done so, please fill in a Comment Card or better yet, write a letter to your MLA.

In closing, I would like to tell you that both initiatives are being funded solely by the SLTA and they represent a major financial commitment for us. However, we cannot advocate for libraries by ourselves. We need your participation if these programs are to succeed. I would urge all trustees to become involved in these programs by participating in them as individuals but more importantly, by urging others to participate as well. If we are to influence government to improve our public library system, we need the force of numbers. Please contact your MLAs and tell them of the importance of libraries. Urge others to do the same; have your patrons fill out the Comment Cards. Together we can make a difference.



President Dennis Taylor, Lakeland

Life Member Award

Life Membership may be conferred by the Association upon a member or past member of the SLTA for distinguished service as a trustee in the library field at local, provincial, or national levels. Nominations for the award will be solicited by the executive by advising Regional, Regina, Saskatoon, and PNLs System Boards each year, and that nominations should be made prior to January 31st of each year.

Each nomination shall outline the record of contributions of the nominee on the local library board, on the SLTA executive, and in other community activities.

Nominations made by a librarian must be supported by at least one trustee. Nominations may be submitted more than once, but must be made each year. Geographic distribution may be considered in making an award. In a year when no name has been submitted, no award would be made. Trustees serving on the SLTA executive will not be eligible for an award during their term of office. The selection Committee shall be composed of the SLTA Executive Committee.

The recipient will be notified and invited to the annual Saskatchewan Library Association convention banquet where a presentation will be made.

For more information and a nomination form please visit our website: www.slta.ca or email njk@sasktel.net.



SASKATCHEWAN
LIBRARIES MATTER

SLTA is currently running a library promotion campaign and you can help!

Saskatchewan's decision makers in the Legislature consistently tell us that their constituents aren't telling them that libraries are a priority—we need to change this!

One of the goals of our Saskatchewan Libraries Matter advocacy campaign is to get our provincial politicians to hear stories from people about why our libraries matter to them. Not just why libraries matter to trustees, but why they matter to the people who use our libraries each and every day.

The Challenge...

Take the time to write a letter to your MLA. Tell them why your library matters to your community, and why they matter to you as a library trustee. Tell them why our libraries deserve an increase in funding. Be sure to send copies of your letter to Premier Brad Wall, the Minister of Education and the Minister of Finance as well—the more offices you send them to, the better the chances of being heard!

But that's not all!

In order to get out the message that our libraries matter, the government wants to hear from everyday people in your community. The SLTA challenges each library trustee to encourage at least two people from your community to write to their MLA as well. Ask people who you know use and value your library to write a quick letter that tells the story of why their library matters to them. Offer to mail it for them! Do whatever it takes to get them to write!

Please see <http://slta.ca/advocacy>.

Lastly...

Why my library matters Comment Cards have been placed in libraries across the province. Copies of the Comment Cards can be found on the SLTA website at www.slta.ca/advocacy.

Please take the time to complete a card. Please share cards with your family, friends, and colleagues. Submissions can be sent to njk@sasktel.net.

Thank you in advance for your participation in these important projects!

Chinook

The implementation of the Polaris interface "Leap" has kept Chinook busy. Training will be complete by the middle of September. So far, Leap has been well received by the staff.

Two branches, Eastend and Gravelbourg have moved to new locations.

Revised job descriptions were done for all HQ staff.

Another successful Summer Reading Program was held throughout the region. Twenty out of 32 branches participated. Various programs included Tekeyla Friday doing puppet shows and puppet making, and story teller/entertainer Danica Lorer. The Morse branch painted sunflowers like Van Gogh. There was a "batman" presentation at the Hodgeville branch with bat scientist Dr. Mark Brigham from the University of Regina. Maple Creek has purchased a LEGO robotics kit for their branch. Maple Creek is also doing a community survey about library services.

Several grant applications to SaskCulture and



SLA have been submitted and most of them have been approved for various events throughout the region. Two of the grants from SLA are for a Cowboy poet during Library week and International Rural Women's Day.

The Swift Current Family Resource Centre also did Family Fun days throughout the region.

Five hundred school readiness kits were distributed to four year old children throughout the region.

The region continued books sales at the Market Square in Swift Current.

Lakeland

The main focus of the summer has been training staff on the new Polaris ILS. All our branch staff members have been learning to use LEAP, which is a user-friendly, web-based version of the circulation module. We have also been planning for the service disruptions during migration week by communicating with the public and adjusting staff schedules as needed.

North Battleford Library is taking advantage of migration week to close for a few days in order to do some renovations. They are getting a new combined circulation and reference desk, new study carrels and public computer stations, new furniture for the

children's area, and they are creating a space for teen patrons.

The library closure is also providing an opportunity for North Battleford Library and HQ staff to participate in a training session led by facilitators from Edmonton Public Library. The session is called Leading From Any Position and it focuses on creating a sense of common purpose among all Lakeland staff and developing communication and problem-solving skills.

In other words, this is time of renewal and capacity-building across the region.



Parkland

Director Helen McCutcheon has visited every one of Parkland's 54 rural branches. As well, she and the Branch Supervisor held workshops at four locations in the region.

Parkland concluded negotiations with CUPE. At the August meeting, the Executive Board approved the contract.

While in Toronto, the Director came across "A Tale of the Town". A young couple come to a place and invite local citizens to talk about their main street experience. They were invited to the YPL. The City, McDonald's and Tim Horton's were sponsors. The event was well attended and a successful promotion for YPL.

The SLTA library promotion is well underway. Comment Cards and posters went out to the branches three days after they were received and good comments have been coming in.

One of Parkland's First Nations requested help from our Regional Director to set up a library. A good library was established, but unfortunately, this spring some vandals destroyed it.

Literacy staff is very busy and is partnering with family centres in Yorkton and Kamsack. Three First Nations are hosting literacy programs and nutrition camps.

The search for a new location for Headquarters has been unsuccessful.

Parkland will be down for one week because of the new computer system. All Branch staff have been brought to Headquarters for training with Polaris.

The Vice-President of the region, Sandra McColl, passed away in July. She was a very strong Board member and will be missed.



PNLS

The summer of 2015 was a dramatic one. Along with the trauma of evacuation due to forest fires, PNLS trustees and staff and those of the member libraries undertook a lobbying campaign of the government.

At the June Executive Committee meeting, the Executive met with MLAs Buckley Belanger and Doyle Vermette. Since the meeting, PNLS has continued with their bookmark campaign, updated their wiki, and made arrangements for presentations to various groups—including Brad Wall on his unexpected visit to La Ronge August 27th.

In response to a comment from the Minister of Advanced Education PNLS completed a summer study. He entered the NORPAC/NORTEP

library and stated that as everything was now online libraries were no longer needed. Summer students searched for randomly selected titles from the PNLS collection to see what was available online. Only 2.3% of the nonfiction collection, and 15.4% of the adult, young adult and juvenile fiction collection is available in an online format. This is an indication that "Libraries Matter".

PNLS is incorporating the SLTA campaign into their current theme and campaign.

Highlights from the 9th International Indigenous Librarians' Forum were: the Universities of Manitoba and Winnipeg now require all undergraduate students to take an aboriginal studies course, as well



PAHKISIMON NUYE?AH
LIBRARY SYSTEM

Serving the Information Needs of Northern Saskatchewan

elders are being cited as resources in bibliographies under the designation "Eminent Scholars", many indigenous libraries are using a classification system called Brian Deer with three levels of Cutter: Community, Geography and Author. New Zealand has passed some interesting copyright laws regarding control of the commercial use of indigenous cultural information, and the value of a story is not the item itself but the meaning behind it, which in the case of the story can only come to life as it is told and retold.

PNLS held its fall conference September 21-23. They provided an orientation for new library staff, as well as a session by the Office of the Treaty Commissioner. Some training was provided via a webinar as well.

If you received this newsletter by regular post, but can supply an email address please contact Nancy Kennedy at the address below.

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Regina Public Library



RPL continues to provide leadership for the design and partnerships of the Māmwāyatitān Centre, currently being constructed in North Central Regina. Like the Library, the Centre is created from community, driven by passion, and inspired by lifelong learning for everyone. The potential for integration of programs and services with other community organizations gives the Library unprecedented reach in serving community needs while showing the public the incredible offering of RPL and its staff.

The George Bothwell Branch at the Southland Mall is a high-traffic Branch, and one of RPL's most popular locations. As service

demands continue to increase in South and Southwest Regina, George Bothwell Branch will be expanding to meet the needs of more patrons. In 2015, a new lease for an expanded presence in the Southland Mall was secured and interior design services were contracted to prepare a design for the expansion and revitalization of this Branch. This design work will be conducted in the last quarter of 2015 and has included public input.

More than ever, people around the world are responding to and participating in the maker movement - an umbrella term for independent inventors, designers and tinkerers. Libraries, including RPL, are responding to this

movement by providing space and opportunity for makers to converge and share ideas and information. After a successful Makerspace Conference in 2014, RPL will host a second Makerspace event in December 2015, focusing on education, entertainment, and art for all ages.

3D printers are a popular tool used in maker environments, and RPL recently purchased two printers to further engage the maker community. The printers use an additive process, building successive layers of material by computer control to construct a three-dimensional object. One of the printers at RPL will be available for the public to use to build their

own projects, and the second will be used by RPL for public programming.

The Dunlop Art Gallery developed, curated and hosted the Material Girls exhibition, which attracted nearly 10,000 visitors and broke all recent attendance records for the gallery. The show received national press coverage from *The Globe and Mail* and Canadian show to appear elsewhere in Canada, *Material Girls* is transitioning to a touring show, and will visit several galleries in 2016. The tour was awarded a \$20,000 grant from Saskatchewan Arts Board's *Culture on the Go* program.

Saskatoon Public Library



Saskatoon Public Library (SPL) conducted a staff engagement survey in the spring. As follow up, the Director of Libraries & CEO conducted area visits across the system. On September 23rd SPL will close all branches and spend the day focusing on future directions and the priorities that emerged from the survey/consultations. The Mayor will attend. As well, there will be a speaker who specializes in change management.

SPL launched a new website in September. The site was designed to speak to professional librarians, funding bodies and the general public. We have had interest in the design from libraries across Canada. We will continue to work with architects Territorial on phase II of

development.

SPL is evaluating its infrastructure to determine what renovations are required at each of the Branches. The Carlyle King Branch is the first to undergo renovations.

The new branch in Stonebridge is under design and construction. The branch will be located in leased space adjacent to a seniors' home. The design will be presented to the system on September 23 and introduced to the community in November. The branch is expected to open in the summer of 2016. The Alice Turner Branch is being renovated to accommodate the relocation of the Marketing & Communications unit. Once they move to their new location SPL will

relocate some administrative staff to the vacated offices.

SPL has several vacant management positions. They are or will be, recruiting for a Director, Corporate Services; Director, Service Delivery; Manager, Adult & Information Services; Manager of Branches, South/Central. SPL has created a Manager, Digital Initiatives and Manager, Special Projects positions.

New signage is being installed across the system. The project has been on-going for a few years. The goal of the project is to use SPL branding to bring consistency across the system.

The migration to Polaris is going well. A Migration Team was formed in June to manage the migration and ensure

communication to staff and the public.

A high level overview of the 2016 Budget Proposal was provided to Council in August. SPL has identified continuous improvement and building capacity as priorities. Specifically SPL is seeking to increase our FTE's over the next three years.

SPL staff were involved in providing services to the evacuees during this summer's fires. SPL partnered with the Red Cross and local churches.

In the next six months SPL will be undertaking a financial process review and start our strategic planning process.

Why Public Libraries Matter

—Linda Warley

I never feel more at home than when I'm in a library. Any library, anywhere. It doesn't matter which cataloguing system the library uses, I can find the book I'm looking for. Even though I tend to experience claustrophobia in other enclosed spaces, this never happens in the library stacks. I love to browse the shelves, look way up and way down for hidden volumes, sit down on the floor or step stool and leaf through pages.

Since I work at a university I have daily access to the university library and I will always be grateful to it for giving me the research materials I need: books, journal articles in print and via the web, stuff in the rare book room and on microfilm and microfiche. But when I'm on campus, I tend not to work in the university library. I pick up my book (and maybe a coffee and a sandwich) and I leave. I leave the university library to the students. When my job does not require me to be on campus, I head to the public library to do my work. In the public library there is just enough ambient noise to be soothing and not distracting. There are comfy chairs and big tables for writing. There are plugs for computers. The lighting is good and there are big windows offering views of the city. I love the strict no cellphones rule...

Southeast

Over the last year, Southeast's Library Director's attention has been split between supporting his ailing wife and directing the operations of Southeast Regional Library. His wife passed away on August first. He is now working back into things. A few notable activities over the past while include:

Southeast is focused on preparing for collective bargaining, which will start later this fall. Making the collective agreement consistent with the new Saskatchewan Employment Act is quite demanding. Working through new Occupational Health and

Safety, Human Rights and scheduling provisions have proven to be particularly demanding.

Southeast has reworked their collection priorities and have added Hoopla (movies, TV shows, music, spoken word, e-books and electronic graphic novels). They are also adding video games and Makerspace Kits in the New Year.

Southeast is developing a Code of Conduct for staff and trustees. The code will provide tools to deal with staff or trustees whose actions and activities may undermine the mission and effectiveness of the regional library. In

conjunction with this initiative, Southeast has purchased liability insurance for local library boards when they act in good faith.

Southeast Regional Library was established in 1966. Plans are underway to celebrate their 50th Anniversary from April, 2016 (Annual Meeting) through to the end of October, 2016 (fall Semi-Annual Board Meeting).



Wapiti



Wapiti Regional Library is very pleased to introduce Lindsay Baker as their new Community Service Librarian. Lindsay, who started in May, brings valuable public library experience to Wapiti, particularly in the area of programming, which is a renewed focus for the Regional Office and branch libraries.

Wapiti received a federally funded New Horizons for Seniors Grant for 2015-2016. Wapiti is currently presenting and providing training to seniors across the region on the use of technology for

improved library access and on the use of digital library resources.

As with fellow library agencies across the province, Wapiti has devoted a great deal of focus over the last several months to the implementation of Polaris, the province's new integrated library system.

Library Success Stories

We are looking for more library success stories for the new page on our website.

Do you got a great story about some way your library has affected a patron's future, a service or resource that has really made a difference, or friendly help—just when it was needed the most?

We encourage you to share. Please visit <http://slta.ca/advocacy/story-submission> to upload your story.

Wheatland



The Spring AGM in April provided Wheatland with a few changes at the board table. Gayle Brown, RM of Monet #257 is the new chair.

Following the AGM the Board spent a Saturday in June working with Julie Arie on a Strategic Plan. It was time well spent.

Wheatland's Facebook page has been helpful for all of the WRL Board and local libraries. The FB page is constantly changing, with a new library location being highlighted each week.

The Summer Reading Program was again a hit throughout the region. Local libraries provided various different activities.

WRL had a Summer Reading Game with 1,721 children registered.

During the summer WRL had four performers who moved throughout the region: Danica Lorer (storytelling), Sylvia Chave (singer/performer), School House Songs (Lee and Sandy Paley), Gol Science (Saskatchewan Science Centre) provided participatory science programming at various

locations.

WRL board is continuing to work on governance matters, strategic planning and creation of supportive policies for WRL and local libraries as the need arises. With the growth of the area there is an ongoing need to review bylaws and policies to ensure WRL is 'changing with the times'.

Wheatland will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary in 2017 and a committee will be struck to begin the planning in this regard.

Provincial Library

The Provincial Library and Literacy Office (PLLO) in collaboration with Saskatchewan libraries and various stakeholders are reporting on the following initiatives:

Literacy and Libraries:

Summer Reading Initiative

- Continued support for use of the Storybird platform and development of culturally appropriate content.
 - The development of programming toolkits for dissemination on the Library Toolshed (<http://librarytoolshed.ca/>) The collaborative initiative supported by The Alberta Library, The Association of BC Public Library Directors, Saskatchewan's Multitype Library Board and the Manitoba Public Library Services Branch.
 - A well-attended session at the SLA 2015 Conference, *Playing to our Strengths: Strategic Design of Summer Reading in Saskatchewan* showcasing Summer 2016 initiatives including Programming for clients with Autism, and the development of age-focused programs and materials to supplement TD Summer Reading Club.

Summer Literacy Camps

- Eight school divisions (Creighton, Ile-à-la-Crosse, Light of Christ, Living Sky, Northern Lights, Prairie Valley, Prince Albert Roman Catholic and Saskatchewan Rivers) continue to receive funding in support of summer literacy camps; in the summer of 2015 reserve located camps for First Nations learners were launched in collaboration with Frontier college and four Saskatchewan First Nations.
 - Pakhisonon Nuyeh Library System continues to receive a grant to purchase culturally and community-relevant materials to support continued reading and learning of learners and families throughout the year.

Saskatchewan Community Literacy Fund

- The SCLF provides one-time funding of up to \$50,000 to organizations to offer short term adult, workplace and/or family literacy programs in their communities.
 - Library branches are encouraged to partner with successful applicants to provide support for adult and family literacy programs.

Family Literacy Hubs

- Family literacy hubs continue to promote and deliver family literacy programs and services tailored to fit community needs in four core areas: public awareness, quality programs and services, practitioner training and support and community outreach and networking.

Multilingual Library Services

The PLLO finished cataloguing of 290 new children's books donated by Ms. Jeong A Ki, an immigrant and public library user from South Korea. The donation has 90 fiction books and 200 non-fiction titles including series on Korean history, world literature, and natural science. Most of the materials were published in South Korea within the last ten years. The Korean children's collection size has been tripled by this donation.

Aboriginal Library Services

- The PLLO Aboriginal Library Services Coordinator provided a presentation on

the Committee on Aboriginal Library Services (CALs) and Library Services for Aboriginal Peoples Inc. (LSSAP) at the Multitype Library Board AGM on April 15, 2015, in Regina.
 - CALs has drafted a 2-year implementation plan for a partnership with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner (OTC) to support Saskatchewan Public Libraries in delivering quality Aboriginal Library Services which includes providing information and promoting the histories, cultures and traditions of First Nation and Métis people of Saskatchewan to encourage understanding and build relationships.
 - LSSAP is coordinating the Digital Aboriginal Imaging Project to support the Summer Reading Initiative through the development of illustrated Saskatchewan, First Nation and Métis content for use in Storybird. LSSAP's Digital Aboriginal Imaging Project Artist is Leah Dorion, an interdisciplinary Métis artist from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. There are almost 50 images available in Storybird: <https://storybird.com/leah-dorion/>

Public Library Services

- The Government of Saskatchewan's 2015-16 provincial budget will provide a total of \$11.09 million for resource sharing grants, CommunityNet connections, the Multitype Library Board (MLB), the Single Integrated Library System, out of province Interlibrary Loan service, and the National Network for Equitable Library Services (NNELS) initiative.
 - Participation on the Trustee Development Committee has contributed to the building of several educational resources for trustees including a foundational document called "In a Nutshell...Saskatchewan Public Library Governance" and three modules - Orientation, Board Performance, and Planning and Development. An advocacy module will be developed and training sessions will be delivered in three locations this fall.
 - NNELS, the National Network for Equitable Library Service, provides library materials to patrons with print disabilities. Over 10,000 items are now available in the SILS catalogue. Provincial Library is working with the BC Libraries Cooperative, our technical partner, to have additional Saskatchewan content produced for NNELS.

Library Network Development

- Work is ongoing to connect four remaining branches in the Parkland and Chinook regional library systems to the Community Net infrastructure. Construction on three of the towers required to connect the 3 branch libraries in Parkland has been delayed to the spring of 2016. The remaining library branch in Chinook is waiting municipal approval to migrate over to the CNET network.
 - The cataloguing unit continues to supply enhanced metadata records to the SILS catalogue. The metadata records provide catalogue descriptions for e-books, printed books, audio books, streaming resources, resource kits and a variety of other materials. This unit remains an active participant and chair of the SILS Cataloguing Operations Group (COG) committee. The COG also implemented a strategy for uploading MARC records representing digital



content (eBooks, eAudiobooks, streaming music and video).

- The unit is actively participating in the SILS migration from Sierra to the Polaris ILS. It provides support for the migration of the metadata to the new Polaris database. The unit also supports technical aspects related to CNET in the operation of Polaris. The migration to the new Polaris ILS will occur in September, 2015.
 - The Library Network Development unit will host a one day session on October 22, 2015 for regional library computer technicians. The session will discuss topics such as the Polaris ILS migration, Community Net, Network/Computer security and new/emerging trends in library technologies.

Multitype Library Development

- Eureka! is a contest that the MLB Library Training and Promotion Committee launched to gather multitype database success stories from library staff members. Databases include Multitype Database Licensing Program (MDLP) databases and Saskatchewan History Online e-resources. The committee's favourite anecdotes will be celebrated at the Saskatchewan Libraries Conference, 2016. To enter please complete this brief web form: <http://www.libraries.gov.sk.ca/success.html>
 - The Multitype Development Unit will offer a series of training webinars using Adobe Connect throughout the year. The first two webinars will take place in September: September 14, 2015: Research in Context 3:45-4:30pm, September 22, 2015: LegalTrac 12:00-1:00pm. To register for any of the upcoming webinars please contact Regan Gunningham (regan.gunningham@gov.sk.ca) a minimum of one week prior to the event.
 - The MDLP has renewed all current subscriptions in its Core Collection for 2015-16. The program committee established a subcommittee to conduct a Cost-Per-Use analysis for the MDLP Core products. The project is to develop a mechanism to help the Committee make purchasing recommendations for 2016/17.
 - The MLB and PLLO staff have been working with SLA to plan a joint Multitype and SLA and SLTA library Conference, May 5-6, 2016 which will be held in Saskatoon.

...Coffee can be procured downstairs. And people are constantly coming and going. Some, like me, sit for hours creating, writing, thinking, and reading. I like being in a place where my visual field is crowded with books. Paper things.

One of the best aspects of public libraries is that they are really public. There are no barriers (that I can think of anyway) to a person's entry into a public library. You can be anyone and use this space. Even a young person in existential crisis as I suspect was the case with the teenager who was at the table beside me the other day-what better place for such a person to be? You don't even have to be a card-carrying member to enter, use, and enjoy a public library. Public libraries feel like very democratic spaces where we can (silently) commune with a very diverse group of people. Where we can be alone and together at the same time. Where we truly experience the civitas.

SLA Conference 2016

The Conference Planning Committee has been meeting for about a year, developing ideas, hashing out arrangements, trying to determine how to get participation from a variety of organizations.

Since the 2016 conference is to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Multitype Library Board this year's conference theme is "Cooperation Saskatchewan Style: 20 Years of Success". A logo is in its final stages of development. The conference planner/schedule has been worked out, a special guest booked as the Keynote, venue was booked (Radisson in Saskatoon, May 5, 6, and 7, 2016), and the program committee is working on a call for presenters.

More information will be available in the SLTA spring newsletter.



SLTA 2014 Individual Membership Form

SLTA is looking for support from local library boards. We would also suggest buying an individual SLTA membership for your mayor, and/or members of councils as a way to show support for libraries. Your support can help us help libraries!

Membership provides each member with this newsletter, "The Trustee". This newsletter identifies the major issues facing libraries, and allows us to work together to achieve our common goals.

If you would like more information please contact your region's SLTA representative.

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

May we send you the newsletter via e-mail? YES please NO thanks

Region _____

Library _____

*Each region pays the membership for regional board members. This form is for members of local boards or anyone else who wishes to become a member of the Saskatchewan Library Trustees' Association. Please remit the completed membership form along with **\$10.00** payment to the address below. Thank you for your support!

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Back Row (L-R): Darryl Lucke (RPL), Gail Beuhler (Chinook), Nancy Kennedy (Executive Director), Mairin Loewen (SPL), Sharon Armstrong (Parkland), Julie Arie (Provincial Library).

Fron Row (L-R): President Dennis Taylor (Lakeland), Vice-President Lorna Black (PNLS), Treasurer Donna Hartley (Southeast).

Missing: Maureen McGirr (Wapiti), Sandra MacArthur (Wheatland), Alison Hopkins (Provincial Librarian).



Contributions are welcome. Please send suggestions for articles, photos, and stories to njk@sasktel.net.

We're on the Web!
www.slta.ca

Your SLTA strives to:

- Promote and foster the development of libraries and library services in Saskatchewan.
- Provide for exchange of ideas and experiences among library board members through conferences and publications.
- Assist members by understanding their responsibilities as library trustees.
- Cooperate with associations of library trustees outside the province.
- Seek improvements and foster necessary changes in the legislation affecting Saskatchewan libraries.
- Work in close cooperation with the Saskatchewan Library Association.

More Than Just Books: Why Libraries Matter in Canada

— Mike Donachie Metro., Published on Mon Dec 08 2014

Take a look at our libraries, and you can read us like a book. Mention public services, and the mind leaps to healthcare or police, or maybe garbage collection, transit or road repairs. Mention a library, and many people will think of a dusty building filled with endless shelves of battered tomes. They'd be wrong, at least nowadays.

But library services need to be at the forefront of modern public services, sweeping away that dusty old image, and here's why. Libraries are far more important than many people think. They unlock our potential to learn, and modern times have seen them branch out to far more than just books.

In Toronto, for example, public library staff report that 72 per cent of citizens visited a library within the past year, with individual "uses" — and that's in every imaginable way — hitting almost 97 million in 2013. Interestingly, the city's engagement with paper books has been dropping steadily. In the decade to 2013, use of collections in-person at libraries dropped by 27.3 per cent. But the use of electronic collections, including e-books, doubled in 2011, then 2012 and again in 2013. They now represent 10 per cent of the circulation of books in Toronto's libraries.

The trend is not limited to big cities. In neighbourhoods across Canada, libraries are feeding the appetite for information in the information age. A library is still a way to

find information, but you can also make connections, attend events, hear music, access the Internet and more. There are educational programs, art exhibits, reading clubs, talks and social gatherings. You can find 3-D printers, toys and havens for newcomers, new mothers and the elderly. Canada spends more than \$1 billion a year on libraries from public funds, at different levels of government, and has done so every year since 2008-09, according to Statistics Canada, and that shows the degree to which we value these institutions.

Calgary's building a beautiful new central library, at a cost of \$245 million, with a four storey central atrium and a huge skylight to shed light on

the more than half a million books the place will hold when it's completed in 2018. Halifax's new central library, costing more than \$50 million, opens next week, and the excitement level is high.

Investment in library services is a measure of a society, and Canada's investment is in the future. With newcomers pouring in every year — in 2013 this country welcomed more than 270,000 new permanent residents alone — the need to learn is greater than ever before. When the people of Canada improve themselves, Canada improves. So, as municipalities get ready to set their budgets for the coming year, they need to be kind to their libraries. **It's an investment in us all.**

Saskatchewan Libraries
HAPPY HOUR

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5th | 5PM TO 7PM

SLA Board invites the Library Community to gather throughout Saskatchewan!

Moose Jaw | Brown's Social House, 11 River Str. W
Regina | Cultural Exchange 2431 8th Ave
North Battleford | Location TBA
Saskatoon | Location TBA
Creighton/FlinFlon | Location TBA
Prince Albert | Location TBA

Appetizers will be provided, beverages on your nickel.
Members, library workers/supporters & guests welcome!

SLA SASKATCHEWAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
SaskCulture 2014-2015