

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Anniversary Activities

Anniversary activities are going well with many of the smaller mid-year projects already complete. The recent launch of the 100 books under the BookCrossing project got some media attention and users have begun to report back to the BookCrossing website on the travels of the RPL books.

The next major projects are the Library Card and the history book. Designs for the Library Card were tested with the staff and public over a short time in the early fall and a new children's card will be produced shortly. The Library Card project involves working with the school boards to ensure that every child coming into Kindergarten this year has a library card. Assuming success with this approach, the Library would continue to issue cards to new Kindergarten children each year.

There are, of course, two history book projects under way – a modest RPL production and a significant historical work led by the Friends of RPL. The RPL history book will take the form of a graphic novel – looking at RPL history in a context that is current and reflective of the evolution of the public library. Four artists have been commissioned to produce four graphic story lines based on the four images used in anniversary posters and promotions. The Library's history book should be complete in time for Christmas. The Friends' history book will take a more traditional approach to Library history and is expected to be complete in late 2009.

The finale to the Anniversary celebrations and the opening to the next century of RPL's service to the community will take place on Friday, January 2, 2009. Aj Thakker, the Anniversary Co-ordinator, is working on creating an afternoon of entertainment and events at four RPL locations.

Home Lottery

After each Home Lottery has completed its audit, the Library has customarily moved the proceeds to the Capital Donation Reserve to support future Branch development and allow the next Lottery to use the same set of bank accounts. To do so, the Library must request permission from Saskatchewan Liquor & Gaming. Assuming that it is the Board's wish to do so again, the Library will need a Board motion to request the transfer and make it, if approved.

Also, the auditor's letter from the 2008 lottery was presented at the June Board meeting but there was not enough time to deal with it. It is included again today for the Board's approval.

North Central Shared Facility

The North Central Shared Facility Steering Committee and Management Committee continue to meet and work with Fielding Nair on design concepts for the North Central Facility. A major community event is planned for Saturday, October 4th and Board members are encouraged to attend. The day is a Design Fair where two conceptual designs will be on display and open to comment by the community. Activities will span most of the midday period and will likely include elements from within both the aboriginal and non-aboriginal cultural contexts.

The two main design concepts are included in your package. I will take some time at the meeting to outline some of the concepts behind the planning process, it is important to note that the latest designs reflect a very integrated approach – in some areas, the physical distinctions between organizations is unclear. For the Library, it shows the Albert Library and Humanities Centre as a single large space. More conversations and more development of plans for the Library, School, Health Region, and other partners are needed but the current form of the facility is that the public library serves a multi-functional role that includes services to high school students. At this point, it is a conversation of generalities as the Regina Board of Education has not yet fully developed its educational model for the new Scott Collegiate.

Public Accounts

There was a request at the last Board meeting to confirm some of the figures in the Public Accounts document. The figures have been confirmed and it is presented for Board approval.

Staff Conference

The annual Staff Conference is scheduled to take place on Friday, November 21st. In addition to inviting Board members to all or part of the day, as you are able, I ask that the Board close the libraries for that day. The focus of the Staff Conference this year is change management and the introduction of steps following from the Programs & Services Review.

Tutor Awards Luncheon

The Tutor Appreciation and Awards Luncheon will be held on Saturday, October 18th from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm. Board members are invited to attend as well as a designated Board member to assist with the presentation of awards.

Writer-in-Residence Committee

Every second year, RPL hosts a Writer-in-Residence through a Canada Council grant program. It is time to consider applications for the 2009-2010 Writer-in-Residence program and, traditionally, a member of the RPL Board participates on the Committee. I would appreciate having a volunteer from the Board for this committee.