

### **Prince Of Wales**

The Prince of Wales branch renewal project is well under way. Julie has been working with Resource Planning Group (RPG) on the functional programming for the new branch and with the City of Regina on the relationship of this new space to the Core Ritchie Neighbourhood Centre. We brought RPG and P3A into this process to help everyone to understand the range of functional and architectural issues. The City are now contracting RPG and P3A separately to carry out functional programming and pre-design work for the Core Ritchie. We are all working collectively towards the same goal -- a neighbourhood hub that will meet the needs of the whole community.

On November 4, Julie brought together a group of twelve staff to participate in a functional programming process with RPG, City of Regina and P3A (the project architect). The draft master program document should be ready to share with these staff in the first week of December. The group will reconvene on December 10 to respond to that document and to sign off on its recommendations. These recommendations will then proceed to the Steering Committee and then to the Board. This master program will be the design instructions to P3A to ensure that the branch is designed to meet our immediate and future service needs. We have involved P3A throughout the process to ensure that they can respond to any design issues at all stages of this process.

### **Central Library Development Project**

The Central Library project is progressing with potential partner discussions taking place over the past and coming weeks. RPG has just delivered a draft of the Library's functional plan and it will be proofed and reviewed before turning it over to the architect, P3A. The architect will use the functional plan to design the library portion of the development and will consult with potential partners and the development firm, Harvard Developments, to formulate initial designs for other spaces. As noted earlier in the month, the concept design phase has been stretched a bit and the public open house on the design options is likely to take place in late January.

### **Council on Access to Information for Print-Disabled Canadians/CNIB**

In my role as Chair of CULC, I was able to participate in a recent meeting of the Council on Access to Information for Print-Disabled Canadians in their discussion of the proposal to create a sustainable Library for print-disabled Canadians. The proposal is no longer based on federal-provincial support of the existing CNIB Library and has morphed into a more comprehensive plan to include more than just the blind. The change in direction looks more interesting and more promising and a national proposal for it is being drawn up now. Regardless of the outcome of the proposal itself, RPL should continue to have access to the partner program of the CNIB Library beyond January 2010.

### **Readers' Choice Update**

I have had a meeting recently with Jackie Lay, Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Book Awards, about the Book Awards, generally, and the Readers' Choice Award, specifically. The Saskatchewan Book Awards is looking at moving the timing of the Awards from fall to spring. This change works well as a time to change other parts of the program. The Readers' Choice Award has, for some time, been a challenge for the SBA. Originally, it was a small prize that was awarded the night of the Book Awards gala based on a vote of those present. In an attempt to bring the Award into the mainstream of the SBA

program and to make it truly provincial in scope, RPL coordinated province-wide voting through all public libraries in the province and increased the prize amount to be the same as the others on the list. After three years under the new format, its success has been mixed and it seems appropriate to wind up the Award and move on.

Plans are not finalized but in the next round of the Book Awards (probably in 2011), the SBA and the Library will attempt to coordinate having the Library and the City share a suitable prize from the Awards list. If this works out, it will also eliminate the time RPL spends on the provincial coordination of the current format.

### MMMRC

The Mayor's Mega Minute Reading Challenge was conducted earlier this year and an evaluation of the program by the Library and schools will lead to a change in timing for 2010. The schools will be better able to work with the program in the fall so the Library will be speaking to the Mayor and coordinating with the schools to hold the Challenge for the next two years in October. This allows a two-year period to test the timing while not conflicting with municipal elections and provides an excellent link with Education Week and Library Week, both of which are in October.

### SILS

The move toward the new, provincial Integrated Library System (ILS) from Innovative Interfaces (III) is progressing well. The implementation dates for Phase I libraries (Saskatoon, Southeast, Palliser, Regina) to go live on circulation have been recently adjusted but now seem firm with Saskatoon coming up the week of 14 December, Southeast and Palliser coming up the week of 11 January, and Regina coming up the week of 1 February. The Consortium hired its first system administrator almost two months ago and configuration of the system has been under way since that time. Over the coming weeks, as the agreed-upon policies are translated into settings on the III system, it will become apparent where the implementation of policy as agreed may not be possible. I will bring back to the Board any areas where policy revision or adaptation may be necessary.

One of the items that appears to be a significant change for the transition from our current system to the new system is the *claims returned* category. Items that are designated *claims returned* are those that a patron has claimed that he/she has returned but that have not been checked in. Sometimes, these items turn up on the shelves after perhaps a check-in error or through some other means. The new ILS does not track *claims returned* items in the same way as our current system and while the new system will be able to monitor and track them, it is not reasonably possible to carry over current items that have been *claimed returned* while still maintaining that status and action. On a transition basis only, I ask that the Board forgive *claimed returned* items. The outstanding number of patrons is just over 2,000 with a total owing of about \$40,000 – a few of these items have been outstanding since the 1990s, but most will be from the past 5 years.