

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Raise-A-Reader

The Library received a grant of \$5,000 from the Leader Post-led "Raise-a-Reader" program. Library staff and, at times, Board members, have participated in this project as volunteers on newspaper sales day and the Library has received funds in the past but this amount represents a significant increase over last year.

POW Project & Open House

The Prince of Wales Design Committee is getting under way and, as noted last month, includes five RPL staff members, two City of Regina representatives, representatives of each of the sub-trades, and Rob Beug of P3A Architecture. A draft timeline is included in the package as are a couple of concept designs. The designs are very preliminary but it is a good opportunity to see how the branch is taking shape.

Board members will note that the timeline indicates that the design concept will be complete in early March and, to keep the project moving along, the Core Ritchie Centre has been booked for a public open house on the evening of 10 March.

New Catalogue Launch

The launch of the new catalogue, as part of the SILS project took place on 2 February as expected. All data loads were complete and verified by late morning and the system officially went live at about 11:35 am. Aside from the apprehensiveness expected with the introduction of the new system, the staff made the adjustment very quickly and in my branch visits that afternoon, staff were actively re-familiarizing themselves with the system, helping each other work through issues, and trying to make sure patron services carried on as efficiently as possible. The transition was quite smooth and the work of the RPL SILS Internal Committee is to be commended.

Since the move to the new system, the Library has received a number of comments from patrons about the new system – some wondering how they've lived without it and some wondering why there was a change. The concerns that have arisen are primarily on a few different topics that can be summarized as changes in the level of access permitted to those from outside the city, changes in the way holds work, changes in the look and feel of the catalogue screens, and anomalous behaviour of the system that requires investigation by the system administrators/IT group. The Marketing & Communications unit is working with Virtual Services and IT to ensure that responses to inquiries are handled as quickly as possible. There was an initial mass of holds for patrons in other library systems but that has also begun to stabilize. The Library's first snapshots of use and traffic patterns generated by patron activity will be available in the late spring.

The Minister of Education, the Honourable Ken Krawetz, will be holding a media event along with public libraries on 2 March at 10:00 am, probably at the George Bothwell Branch. Board members who are able to make it would certainly be welcome.