

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Literacy Awards

In addition to the CLTA Literacy Award (noted later), RPL has cause to be proud as one of its literacy tutor volunteers and one of its learners receive Saskatchewan Literacy Awards of Merit. The Awards recognize:

- Adult literacy learners who have demonstrated exceptional commitment and progress in their learning journey.
- Individuals who have shown exceptional dedication to the cause of literacy.
- Significant accomplishments in service or professional activities, outstanding initiative, and leadership in support of literacy.

On April 29th at Government House, Mr. Don Olson will receive the Literacy Award of Merit for Volunteers, and Mr. BWay Mu Na will receive the Cameco Literacy Learner Award.

Albert Community Library Committee

The Albert Community Library Committee (ACLC) Agreement, as amended at the last Board meeting, was approved by the Committee earlier this month. Approval from the North Central Community Association has not yet been confirmed but should be forthcoming.

Provincial Budget

Immediately after the last Board meeting, the Provincial Government released its 2010/11 Budget. Under *The Public Libraries Act, 1996*, the Province provides a resource sharing grant to all public library systems in the province. The seven regional systems are funded based on a formula, and the northern system grant is set independently of other systems, as are those of Regina and Saskatoon. The provincial resource sharing grant to public libraries remains the same in 2010/11 as it was in the 2009/10 Provincial Budget. For Regina Public Library, that sum is \$553,035 – this sum includes just under \$30,000 in targeted funding for initiatives that focus on library services to the aboriginal community.

While the province's resource sharing grant did not increase, it is worth noting that there are other areas where the province is supporting public library service:

- CommunityNet (CNET): RPL's network service has recently been switched over to the province's CNET service and this has become the library's main business network.
- SILS: The province's commitment to SILS for 2010/11 has been maintained.

- Interlibrary Loan: The Ministry of Education supports the transport of library materials among the nine cities that include the headquarters operations for the ten public library systems.
- SLGA/Lottery Grant: The grant program for major lotteries has been changed but continues to provide support for RPL's home lottery.

SLA/SLTA Conference

The Saskatchewan Library Association (SLA)/Saskatchewan Library Trustees' Association (SLTA) conference is coming up on May 6, 7 and 8. I know that some Board Members are registered but whether you are registered or not, I encourage Board Members to attend the President's opening reception on Thursday, May 6th at 8:30 p.m. in Salon 1 of the Queensbury Centre. It has become customary that the hosting Library sponsor this reception, so please join Julie and me in welcoming the Province's Library community to Regina.

CLA Conference

The Canadian Library Association (CLA) conference, which includes the Canadian Library Trustees' Association (CLTA), is being held in Edmonton from June 2nd to 5th. Again, some Board members are registered to attend. As has been earlier mentioned in Board meetings, CLA (and, consequently, CLTA) has been working at addressing the challenges of a changing environment and how these challenges may impact the association's mandate and future. The CLA AGM will take place toward the end of the conference and a proposal for setting a new direction for the association is expected to be presented and discussed.

@ the Library

- **Library's Literacy program recognized nationally.** Regina Public Library is the winner of the *2010 Stan Heath Achievement in Literacy Award* from the Canadian Library Trustees Association (CLTA). The award is presented annually to a public library board in recognition of its initiation of an innovative program that is contributing significantly to the advancement of literacy in its community. The CLTA is proud to acknowledge RPL's contribution to literacy with its *Learning Together* program for ESL parents and children.
- **RPL lends materials to local radio personality.** Regina Public Library provided Brad, Big Dog 92.7 Radio's morning DJ with a variety of books, DVDs, and magazines while he spent a week living in a tiny shack to raise money for the radio station's Kids Fund, which supports a wide range of projects based around the needs of children in Regina. Brad was only allowed to leave his shed, which had few luxury items other than the materials provided by RPL, for bathroom breaks. RPL also provided a 'Spring into Gardening' gift basket to the station, which was auctioned off on-air to raise money for the charity and help promote this RPL program series.

- **Dunlop exhibit draws interest from schools.** A number of Regina high schools have toured through the DAG's show *Where were the Mothers?* The exhibit shows the multimedia work of Linda Duvall, who partnered with professional musicians in Ontario to assist individuals who have taken alternative paths to write songs about their mothers.

Through video interviews, Duvall also gives voice to mothers whose offspring have taken paths other than what one expects for one's children. These alternative paths include involvement with the legal system, battles with addictions, living or working on the street. Edited excerpts from these two related processes are shown in a multi-channel video and sound installation presented at both the Dunlop Art Gallery and the Art Gallery of Mississauga.

- **RPL Film Theatre featured in book.** The RPL Film Theatre was featured in *The Saskatchewan Book of Musts: The 101 Places Every Saskatchewanian MUST See*, by D. Grant Black. The article talks about how the RPL Film Theatre is the only venue in Regina that regularly shows independent film and world cinema. The piece also highlights some of the theatre's regular programs like its annual screening of the *Cannes Advertising Awards*.