

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Downtown Plan/City Square

The City's downtown plan has progressed and the last time the Board had a presentation of the City's plans, they were still in their conceptual stages. There is now a daily reminder at Central Library that work is progressing and the Board has asked for an update on the projects. I have arranged for an update presentation at the October Board Meeting on 26 October.

CLA Conference 2011

The end of September is the deadline for proposals for CLA sessions for the 2011 conference in Halifax. Unless there are objections from the Board, I plan to submit a proposal that would highlight RPL's journey from 2003 to 2010. I would suggest that such a session, if it were accepted, would best be presented jointly with the Director and the Board Chair (or another Board designate) and would look at the transition from the point of view of trustees and administration.

Film Theatre Seat Sale

It is the 35th Anniversary of the Film Theatre. In the spring, a plan was drawn up with the Development Coordinator to do a final season of the Film Theatre Seat Sale. A little over half of the seats have been sold and the sale will be closed off at the end of the calendar year.

Lottery Audit

In the late spring, the audit of the 2010 home lottery was completed but not in time for the June Board meeting. The audit for the 2010 home lottery is included in your board package and is presented for approval.

Prince of Wales Project

The Prince of Wales project is moving along quite smoothly but is slightly delayed by many rainy days over the past month. Nonetheless, demolition is complete, forms and piles are poured, and there is constant progress.

As a result of earlier Board conversations and mention at the Volunteer Gala meeting of a possible re-naming of the branch, signage for the construction site and webpages on the Library website have been written to simply say "New Branch Project". The name of the Prince of Wales Branch has a decades long history in the city and, of course, in that neighbourhood. However, in my short time at RPL, it has been a source of public confusion at two significant times – when the 2003 closures were announced and some thought that the Sunrise Branch was closing and now, when Sunrise Branch staff are dealing with a constant stream of inquiries from the public

about the rebuilding of that branch. The Sunrise Branch is just off of Prince of Wales Drive and the distinction for the public is not clear. The rebuilding opportunity is a chance to clarify the distinction between the two branches by renaming the current Prince of Wales Branch. The Board has been very active in publicizing the fact that the New Branch was made possible by the proceeds of the Library Home Lottery so a naming opportunity from a funding source may not be a good fit. There are probably a handful of traditional names from which a name could be chosen to differentiate the new branch but I would suggest that this is a great opportunity to get the community involved in choosing a new name for the branch. If the Board agrees with this approach, I will have the Marketing & Communications unit put the program together.

SILS

The basic integrated library system (ILS) portion of the SILS project is almost complete. The last libraries go live on the system on the 28th and 29th of September. As is the case with any change in software, there have been some bumps but patrons already appreciate and exploit the potential of the new system. One of the most significant next steps in the process is data cleanup – ensuring that each patron is in the system only once and that each book title is in the system only once for each specific format. At the moment, each library system is maintaining its own acquisitions and cataloguing processes but discussions are under way to harmonize and coordinate this work to ensure great public service while remaining efficient.

New to the SILS Consortium is its first Executive Director, Maureen Woods. Earlier in her career, Maureen was a branch head at RPL's Connaught and Albert branches and since that time, has been Provincial Librarian for Saskatchewan (Joylene's predecessor) and British Columbia and has played a major leadership role in the development of The Alberta Library (TAL).

Albert Community Library Committee

At the end of the summer, Lisa Workman resigned as Chair of the Albert Community Library Committee. Lisa has been Chair of that committee for several years and she will be very much missed as a strong advocate of community engagement as a vital component of public library service. The Library has been notified that the ACLC report to the Board will be delayed until a new Committee Chair is elected.

Staff Conference

The 2010 RPL Staff Conference will be held on Friday, 22 October at Queensbury. An agenda for the day is included in your Board package. As always, Board members are welcome to attend the entire day or any part thereof. It is traditional for the Board Chair to bring greetings at noon, just before lunch, and having Board members stop in for lunch would be very much appreciated.

Financial Report

The financial statement included in the Board package is starting to look a bit different than it did in years past. The change in accounting rules has made its way through just being shown in the audited statement (from 2009) into the display of budget information. The September Board meeting is Colleen Schommer's second last day before retirement but she will be on hand to provide a very brief introduction to the transition of the financial statement presentation.