

Looking back, 2008 was a year of considerable accomplishments at Regina Public Library. Highlights included the celebration of the Library's 100th Anniversary, the creation of an exciting new program to get kids reading, and the launch of the Library's new Service Plan, which supports the Board's Strategic Plan, *Setting the Course: Looking Ahead to 2010*. In 2008, Regina Public Library focused on three specific areas.

Building a Strong Capital Campaign

Building a capital campaign is one of the most significant initiatives of the Board's Strategic Plan. In the spring of 2008, the Library hired Ketchum Canada Inc. to conduct a Capacity Assessment of the Library's priorities around *Restoring Our Branches* and *Considering the Future of Central Library*.

For the first time in its brief three-year history, the Library's Home Lottery was a sell-out. All 10,000 tickets were sold in advance of the closing date.

Restoring our Branches

Albert and Prince of Wales Branches were the focus of the Board's attention in 2008. The Library continued its work on the North Central Shared Facility committees as part of the process to relocate the Albert Branch to this unique facility.

In 2008, the Library started the process of relocating the Prince of Wales Branch. The current Branch is the smallest in the RPL system and does not allow for the provision of the programs and services available at other Library locations.

Meeting Community Needs

The Library's renewal process made significant progress. The Programs & Services Review was completed, the Library's new Service Plan was launched and the Management Plan was finalized. With this work complete, the Library is strategically focused on meeting the needs of the Regina community in 2009 and beyond.

Findings from the Library's community consultation process and city-wide telephone survey confirmed that the Library must develop more effective ways of telling the Library's story. This has been addressed in the Library's new Service Plan.

In 2008, the Library advanced several initiatives as a result of Phase I of the Library's Program & Services Review. Below is a brief summary of those initiatives:

Public Internet

The Library upgraded all existing public Internet computer workstations. As well, more public Internet stations were added at various Branches and new multimedia workstations were created at two locations.

Collections

Popular Picks – To meet community-identified needs for timely access to popular materials, the Library introduced Popular Picks as a pilot project in 2008. This collection, available at all RPL locations, features current books in high demand for a short loan period with no renewals.

Realignment of Collections

Budget – The Library realigned its Collections budget to focus on the purchase of print materials for the new Popular Picks collection and purchased more paperbacks. In the Children's Collection, the Library increased the number of education-related workbooks and purchased more materials focused on popular culture.

Reference Services

Roving Reference – To improve service levels to Library users, the Reference Unit initiated a pilot project focused on providing 'roving reference services' at Central Library. Staff now provide 'in the moment' reference to the public at their convenience – where patrons are, and not only at the reference desk.

Library's 100th Anniversary

In April of 2008, Regina Public Library kicked off its 100th Anniversary celebrations. The theme was *'100 years in the Hearts of Regina'* – a celebration of the 100 year-long relationship between the Library and the Regina community. Key Anniversary initiatives included:

The Mayor's Mega-Minute Reading Challenge

– This signature event for the Library's 100th Anniversary provided the Library with a valuable opportunity to partner with both School Boards in Regina. It was embraced by children, parents and teachers and the response surpassed all expectations – the children of Regina read in excess of 10 million minutes.



New Library Cards for

Kindergarten Children – To promote early literacy, the Library provided an opportunity for every child in a recognized Kindergarten or home school program to receive a specially designed RPL 100th Anniversary Library Card.

"Four Tall Tales: A Graphic History of Regina Public Library" – Staff from the Library's Dunlop Art Gallery created an exciting graphic novel reflecting the Library's past 100 years.

Participation in the Downtown Plan

The Central Library, in the heart of Regina's downtown, has been actively participating in the planning process for the City's Downtown Master Plan.

Over the past 100 years, Regina Public Library has established itself as a well-loved and valued institution in our community. The Library is headed in a positive direction and is responsive to the needs and expectations of the community it serves. This will create a revitalized Library system for Regina.

- Darlene Hincks, Chair
Regina Public Library Board
- Jeff Barber, Library Director

Year End Statistics for December 31, 2008

Items in collection	618,686
Items added in 2008	98,497
Clients served	1,415,550
Circulation	2,623,212
Reference Questions	158,929
Automated telephone renewals	265,013
Number of public access computers	124
Internet use – total minutes	3,940,747
Internet use – total sessions	155,371
Number of programs provided	5,060
Program attendance	155,540
Items loaned to other libraries	6,783
Items borrowed from other libraries	7,605
Active Library cards (residents)	92,447
Active Library cards (non-residents)	4,393

Audited Financial Statements and Strategic Plan details are available at www.reginalibrary.ca. Click on "About Us", or ask for a copy at your local branch.

Regina Public Library Board

Darlene Hincks (Chair), Elaine Kivisto (Deputy Chair), Janet Brown, Sharron Bryce (Councillor), Mayor Pat Fiacco, Renu Kapoor, Gerald Kleisinger, Darryl Lucke, Shelley Monson, Jeff Barber (Secretary to the Board)



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