

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

100th Anniversary Committee

The 100th Anniversary of RPL is almost upon us. The precise date of the anniversary depends upon the point at which the Library is considered to exist. There was a plebiscite to ask citizens if they wanted a public library in December 1907. The first Board met for the first time on March 27, 1908. The Regina Public Library opened its doors to the public on January 1, 1909.

Using any of these dates puts the anniversary about a year away but it is time to consider assembling an Anniversary Committee. For the purposes of the eventual Anniversary Committee and to confirm the Library's official anniversary, I suggest that the Board define an anniversary period during which activities of the RPL can be designated Anniversary events. I further recommend that the period to be considered RPL's official anniversary be from March 27, 2008 to January 1, 2009. The first date marks the first Board meeting and that is the point at which the Library could be reasonably considered to exist as an organization. The second date marks the date at which the organization became a public library.

A bit more information is needed before a proposal for the Anniversary Committee's make-up and mandate can be finalized, but I hope to have that information in time for the February or March meeting.

RPL Home Lottery 2008

From information provided with the builder proposals for the 2007 lottery house, it was clear that the six months estimated for the building of a home was inadequate. One of the builders suggested that it would take approximately 9 months to build a house. In order to ensure that the Library has maximum flexibility in the selection of the house plan and that the house can still be complete by December or January, an RFP should be sent out by mid-February. The RFP from 2007 can be used again with some minor revision. Before an RFP can be issued I will need the Board's direction on three questions:

- does the Board wish to proceed with a home lottery for 2008?
- if so, what is the maximum cost of a house?
- assuming an answer in the affirmative on the first question, is there any preferred location or subdivision for the home?

Lottery Prize List

Included in the Board package is a final list of secondary prizes for the lottery. Sue Morris, Crystal Beach Mauro, and I took a quick tour of the house a couple of weeks ago. Construction was largely finished and almost all the furniture was in place. The backyard and fence will not be completed until spring thaw.

Readers' Choice Award

Further to the discussion of the last Board meeting, I have spoken to Glenda James, Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Book Awards, about the profile and placement of the Readers' Choice Award that has been sponsored by RPL for a number of years. Many of the details have yet to be worked out, but the Saskatchewan Book Awards Board was receptive to the idea of expanding the award to a truly provincial award and increasing its profile within the awards presentations. I've also spoken with the directors of public library systems in Saskatchewan and they have agreed to cooperate with us by having ballot boxes in every public library of the Province. The award, then, can be voted on by anyone in the Province at their local public library and probably online as well. Voters may be invited to vote on the long list rather than the short list creating the potential for a Readers' Choice Award winner who is not shortlisted for any other prize. Voting would probably take place throughout September and possibly into early October. Again, a number of details have yet to be worked out but I'm confident that we will be able to improve the status of this award and bring due recognition to RPL.

Kids' Fringe

I was approached a few months ago by the Regina Fringe Festival Committee about the possibility of being the venue host of Regina's first Kids' Fringe. We've had some general conversations over the last few months and I'd mentioned it to the Board in the past as a possibility. It is very much looking like the Library will be the venue for the Kids' Fringe during the week of July 10th. The Library will also help a bit with promotion using some existing mechanisms but for the most part we are simply providing a venue. Events will take place in the Film Theatre which is, of course, right outside the Children's Library and it very much looks like a good promotional partnership.

City's Urban Reserve Agreement

Board members may have noticed a reference to an Urban Reserve Agreement going before City Council next week. I do not have a lot of detail at the moment but will be checking into it further over the weekend when the documents are available. From my preliminary investigation, the Agreement will cover the Library, but I will report further at the Board meeting.