



PRESS RELEASE

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WE'RE CREATING A STATE-OF-THE-ART TEEN LIBRARY SPACE: *RED DEER PUBLIC LIBRARY AND THE DOWNTOWN ROTARY CLUB TEAM UP!*

Red Deer Public Library and the Downtown Rotary Club are excited to announce the biggest project to hit Red Deer Public Library in years! Together, we're building a \$130,000 Teen Area in the downtown Library. The Rotary Club will contribute \$50,000 over two years to this innovative project, and the Library will match the funds with a portion of the Dickson Bequest, a legacy left to the Library last year by public school teachers John and Margaret Dickson.

"Red Deer Public Library serves most of Red Deer very well, but teens are the under-served segment of our population," says Dean Frey, Director of Red Deer Public Library. "We need to offer them a space of their own, one that says they're welcome in the Library. Teens' needs are unique and specific, and if we want to ensure the literacy of the next generation, we must meet their needs now."

The Rotary Club is committed to supporting youth, and when the Downtown Rotary Club was approached to share costs in this space, they were immediately interested. President Glen LaBuc says, "The Downtown Rotary Club is thrilled to be a partner in this wonderful endeavor. We believe strongly in literacy, and this project is the perfect way to demonstrate our commitment to Red Deer and to youth."

Library staff will consult with teens, including members of the Rotary Interact Club – a group of young Rotarians from the local high schools – to ascertain the needs of this unique, high-energy group. The new Teen Area will be developed in the current magazine area, on the mezzanine of the 1914 Armoury. The Teen Area will feature high-tech listening stations, internet access, lounge and study areas, and greatly enlarged audio-visual, magazine and book collections aimed directly at teens, including the highly popular new graphic novels.

Look for an Open House in the New Year, where detailed plans will be unveiled after consultation with local teens. The Teen Area is scheduled to open in September, 2004 to coincide with Rotary International's Centennial. Design work is done by Group 2 Architects.

For more information on the Rotary Teen Area, contact:

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