



open for discovery

RED DEER LIBRARY BOARD
6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 31, 2017
Waskasoo-Kiwanis Meeting Room

AGENDA

Welcome & Chair's Remarks

Conflict of Interest Declaration

- 31. Approval of Agenda**
- 32. Approval of Minutes from April 26, 2017 Board Meeting**
- 33. Acceptance of CEO's, Managers' Reports and Statistics**
- 34. Report from Planning and Finance Committee**
 - a. Approval of April 30, 2017 Financial Statements**
 - b. Actions Arising (if any)**
- 35. Report from Personnel and Administration Committee**
 - a. Actions Arising (if any)**
- 36. Information Items**
 - a. Correspondence**
 - b. June 28, 2017 Board Meeting Location**
- 37. Strategic Discussion and Board Development**
 - a. Reports from the Alberta Library Conference in Jasper (Jim & Anita)**
 - b. Free Library Cards (Vanessa)**
 - c. The Role of Board Members in Board Recruitment (Jim)**
- 38. Adjournment**



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RED DEER LIBRARY BOARD
6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 26, 2017
Waskasoo-Kiwanis Meeting Room

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Tanya Handley, Lionel Lustgarten, Colleen Nederlof, Anita Thomas, Judy Clark, Mark Waters, Vanessa Gilbertson and Christina Wilson (CEO)

Regrets: Maggie MacLean

Welcome & Chair's Remarks

Jim called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

There were no conflicts of interest to declare.

23. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: To approve the agenda

WATERS / GILBERTSON / CARRIED

24. Approval of Minutes from March 29, 2017 Board Meeting

MOTION: To approve the Minutes of the March 29, 2017 Board Meeting

THOMAS / LUSTGARTEN / CARRIED

25. Acceptance of CEO's, Managers' Reports and Statistics

MOTION: To accept the CEO's, Managers' Reports and Statistics as presented.

WATERS / GILBERTSON / CARRIED

26. Report from Planning and Finance Committee

a. Approval of the March 31, 2017 Financial Statements

- Question regarding the Net Operating Surplus (Deficit). The deficit is due to the timing of the payment from the City. Normally the payment is received by the end of March, but was received two days late, and thus was not accounted for when the March 31, 2017 Financial Statements were completed. The payment from the City will show on the April 30, 2017 Financial Statements.
- Clarification was provided regarding the Department Equipment Expense that shows as \$273,745.96 over budget; this is because all expenditures for the Level 2 renovation and the Dawe Branch storage/server room refurbishment are going through expenses, with a payment timeline that is prior to March 31, 2017.

MOTION: To approve the March 31, 2017 Financial Statements as presented

GILBERTSON / WATERS / CARRIED

b. Actions Arising

- The Planning and Finance (P&F) Committee presented the Board with a revision of the Digital Literacy Plan which was first approved in 2012. The new plan will enable the entire Marion Roberta Smith bequest to be utilized. The revised plan commits \$65,000 towards development of a makerspace/training lab which acknowledges the Marion Roberta Smith bequest (staff would seek grants to match the \$65,000), \$70,000 investment in a new, non-endowment fund to act as a foundation into which future donations can be received and managed by the Red Deer & District Community Foundation (with annual interest earned being used to refresh equipment), and \$50,000 salary support for the Manager, Digital Literacy position for the first 6 months of 2017 (with the position being supported by the Libraries' staffing budget mid 2017 once necessary vacancies are realized). A question was raised regarding how the \$65,000 is going to be spent, and the P&F committee explained that these funds will be used to purchase items such as 3D printers and digital movie editing software. In addition, the Timberlands Branch already has a makerspace lab, so we will be able to borrow from that experience when planning and creating a similar space Downtown to ensure that we are able to use the funds to meet public needs.

MOTION: To approve the revised Digital Literacy Plan as proposed by the Planning and Finance Committee.

GILBERTSON / WATERS / CARRIED

- Offering free library cards as part of the national Canada 150 Celebration was discussed. This would be a temporary initiative, possibly starting in July and ending in December or starting in July and continuing until June 2018. This would be a trial period to see if free Library cards are something the Board wants to offer on a permanent basis in the future. A year of free Library cards would result in a decrease in revenue of \$55,000, and thus the operating budget will need to be modified to make up for this loss if this initiative is approved. The Board agreed that the P&F Committee needs to do more research in regards to the positives and negatives of offering free Library cards, and present the information to the Board before the May meeting so that a decision can be made. A notice of motion was made stating that the Board will revisit the topic of free Library cards at the May Board Meeting and, at that time, make a decision as to whether or not they would like to go forward with this initiative.

27. Report from Personnel and Administration Committee

- The Personnel and Administration (P&A) Committee continues to work on reviewing and revising the By-Laws and Policies of Red Deer Library Board. In addition, they are working on a new policy that will detail the CEO's compensation guidelines and job description. The P&A Committee asked the Board to review the job description on the Board site and send them any suggestions or opinions.
- Sam Vroon has resigned from the Board and moved to Edmonton. An exit interview will be scheduled, but will have to be over the phone due to his location.
- Discussion regarding how to solicit Board members in the future ensued. Several ideas were discussed including being more proactive and asking staff and management to identify who they feel would be a good addition to the RDPL Board. It was also suggested that we ask Tymmarah Sheculski, Human Resource Specialist – Diversity & Inclusion, with the City of Red Deer, to do a presentation on how to increase the diversity of our Board. The idea of advertising at Red Deer College and other Universities and Colleges was mentioned as a way of generating interest from a younger cohort. Once Board members are selected, it is also important to ensure they feel

welcome and comfortable in their new position. The idea of a mentorship between new and current members was suggested, in combination with a more inclusive orientation, similar to Board Basics.

- The new province wide minimum wage increase will take place in October, and will result in salary grids having to be changed. This will primarily affect Page positions. This will be accomplished by creating a Letter of Understanding with the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 4810, until the new collective agreement is negotiated in 2018. Although this increase will not have too great an impact on RDPL this year, minimum wage will increase to \$15 per hour in October 2018, which the P&F Committee will have to plan for accordingly in the 2018 Operating Budget.
- Jim Taylor, Board Chair, commended the Friends of the Red Deer Public Library and Staff and Management of Red Deer Public Library, on their successful execution of “An Evening with Joseph Boyden”.
- It was proposed that RDPL submit a report to Culture Services to demonstrate the success of the event, especially the attendance of guests who were from out of town. This will be done as part of the Culture Services grant report.

28. Information Items

a. Correspondence

- There was no additional correspondence was presented.

29. Strategic Discussion and Board Development

- The Board would like to discuss our current partnership with the School Board as well as initiate conversations about future partnerships. Jim and Christina will set up a meeting with the School Board Superintendent and Board Chair in the near future.

30. Adjournment

Mark motioned to adjourn at 8:11 p.m.

Approved: _____
Jim Taylor (Chair)

CEO's Report – April 2017

Let's Talk

Held at the Parkland Mall on Saturday, April 8 from 9:30 am to 6 pm, Library staff and Board members engaged visitors in digital activities, talked up our Plan of Service and promoted Red Deer Reads with book giveaways at this City-sponsored community engagement outreach activity. The Library booth was staffed by Janet Pierce, Promotions Assistant, Ben Smeets, Digital Literacy Coordinator, Karen Drok, Manager, Timberlands Branch, Ann Harmon, Adult Services Library Assistant, Youth Services Library Assistant Haley Amendt, Christina Wilson, CEO and Library Board trustees Vanessa Gilbertson, Maggie McLean, Anita Thomas, Jim Taylor and Lionel Lustgarten. The day was kicked off with the unveiling of the 5 short-listed titles for Red Deer Reads using Facebook Live for the first time, featuring Janet Pierce describing the 5 titles and encouraging people to visit and pick up a free book. Displays were unveiled in the 3 branches as part of the unveiling. By the end of the day, over 270 people were counted at the booth (down from 2016's count of 315), 35 gift memberships were issued (2 have been "cashed in" at this writing), 15 new items were added to the Wall, all Red Deer Reads books were given out and Mayor Veer visited our booth to cast her vote for Red Deer Reads, leading to a story in the Red Deer Advocate on the community wide book club.: <http://www.reddeeradvocate.com/news/red-deer-reads-titles-narrowed-down-to-five/>. The photos to the right show staff and Board members involved at the Library's Let's Talk booth.



Stimulate Imagination: Reading, Viewing and Listening for Pleasure

Award-winning author Joseph Boyden gave a stimulating presentation and signed books for an audience of 109 on the evening of Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at the Welikoklad Event Centre (WEC) in Downtown Red Deer, thanks to a joint Friends of the Red Deer Public Library and RDPL committee consisting of Anita Thomas, Sheila Bannerman, Karen Drok, Briana Ehnes, Manager, Adult Services, Kimberley Lennie, Executive Assistant and Christina Wilson. The talk was facilitated by Torben Andersen, Dean of Arts, Red Deer College, and began with a welcome and Aboriginal blessing by Elder Larsen. Mr. Boyden gave a wide ranging talk about writing, how his characters develop, his connection to the native families of Ontario's north, his dabbling in music (he played harmonica and mouth harp to illustrate) and his new works, then entertained questions from the audience. Mr. Boyden signed books and met with interested audience members after the talk. Overall it was a very successful evening, with great support from WEC staff.

Welcoming Space: Security in the Downtown Branch

After a relatively quiet winter, spring has brought an increase in inappropriate behavior in the Downtown branch resulting in more bans being issued to customers during April. Security staff issued or enforced 3 temporary bans (YTD total is 8), 1 permanent ban (YTD Total is 5) and called the RCMP once, raising the YTD total to 5. RCMP support has been welcome and responsive in terms of impact and speed.

Library Community

Alberta Public Library Administrator's Council (APLAC)

On Thursday, April 20, 2017, I attended the APLAC Annual General Meeting at High River Public Library. In addition to APLAC business, the meeting featured a report from the Public Library Services Branch (PLSB) and a presentation by Rebecca Jones, Brampton Public Library (BPL) on using the work of Project Outcome as a rubric for program evaluation in the absence of a common set of metrics used by the public library community. Under Ms. Jones' leadership, BPL is using this American Library Association (ALA) approach to evaluate its programs and presented a compelling argument for other libraries to consider doing the same. Highlights of the PLSB report included news that 2017 library grants would remain at 2016 levels and use current population totals, that capital funds for regional library systems were approved and that a position paper on smaller libraries employing staff with an MLIS is being developed.

The Alberta Library (TAL): April 21 Board and Annual General Meeting (AGM)

At the TAL Board meeting, notice of the annual membership fee increase, as per TAL's policy, was given and the 2016 audit was approved. The 2016 audit was clean and included a note regarding the recent GST compliance audit conducted by the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA). Board actions arising from this, separate item, included approving a plan to pay the CRA charges from TAL's reserve (this prevents further interest charges) and engaging legal counsel to respond formally to CRA's proposal and to handle TAL'S appeal. In order to free up TAL staff and Executive Committee time to address this emerging issue, TAL's CEO search was suspended. Renee LeBlanc, Financial Officer, has agreed to continue as Interim CEO, indefinitely. At the AGM, the changes to TAL's Articles of Association and governance structure were approved, the auditors appointed, new Board members were elected, including Ron Sheppard, Director, Parkland Library System as Chair and the Pat Jobb Service Award was presented to Anne Carr-Wiggin (NEOS Consortium, University of Alberta), Maureen Curry (Director, Grande Prairie Public Library) and retired librarian, Margaret Law, formerly of U of A and Parkland Regional libraries. Full details of both are on TAL's website: www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca.

Alberta Library Conference, Jasper Park Lodge, April 27 to 29, 2017

Along with several staff and Board members, I attended the annual conference of the Library Association of Alberta (LAA). The theme "Libraries More than Ever" was appropriate for this busy conference packed with sessions, keynotes, meetings and networking opportunities. Highlights were Rick Mercer's entertaining look at Canada, sessions on exploring indigenous issues, Calgary Public Library's "Idea Lab" and "CEO Evaluation" and several enlightening talks, especially the one on podcasting and why it's still viable. I had many informative talks with our vendors, notably Hoopla, Sirsi/Dynix and the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association. I also attended LAA's AGM (highlights included the need for an audit, introduction of new Board members, unveiling of the strategic plan and awards announced) and a town hall meeting on a future structural change to LAA to better represent Alberta's library sector within the Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA).

RDPL by the Numbers

The combination of a newly opened Level 2 and the three closed days due to Easter resulted in a decrease in many of the key library use measures (checkouts, visits and memberships) in comparison to April, 2016. Note that number of programs and their attendance are up overall. The apparent jump in programs and attendance at Dawe is due to the classroom visits, resulting from the timetable changes, noted in last month's report. The increase in Friends hours is due to the April Book Sale and Board members' hours includes time spent in meetings (committee and Board) and also "Let's Talk" commitments. Also worth noting is that our self-checkout use peaked at the Dawe branch with 30% of the checkouts done by customers. Timberlands' use remained steady at 20% and Downtown 18%, both similar to last months percentages, with the overall percent of total checkouts at almost 21%.

Library Statistics – April 2017

	April 2017	April 2016	% Difference	2017 YTD	2016 YTD	% Difference
CIRCULATION						
Total Circulation	69,192	76,075	-9.0%	291,351	309,486	-5.9%
Adult Materials	33,663	38,380	-12.3%	133,517	157,940	-15.5%
Paperback	1,214	1,675	-27.5%	5,646	7,010	-19.5%
Fiction	4,401	5,067	-13.1%	18,503	20,162	-8.2%
Non-Fiction	3,269	4,411	-25.9%	16,842	18,310	-8.0%
Large Print	1,299	1,350	-3.8%	3,683	5,038	-26.9%
Teen	2,372	3,262	-27.3%	8,310	11,601	-28.4%
Audio-visual	16,396	18,589	-11.8%	58,488	77,261	-24.3%
Magazines	586	890	-34.2%	3,129	3,681	-15.0%
Other Languages	120	56	114.3%	323	272	18.8%
Daisy CDs	43	44	-2.3%	124	188	-34.0%
eBooks	3,760	3,036	23.8%	17,933	14,417	24.4%
Children's Materials	15,457	18,029	-14.3%	65,720	73,379	-10.4%
Paperback	1,469	1,621	-9.4%	6,136	5,997	2.3%
Non-Fiction	1,486	1,784	-16.7%	5,839	6,452	-9.5%
Other Languages	326	321	1.6%	1,323	1,326	-0.2%
Fiction	1,275	1,414	-9.8%	5,277	5,257	0.4%
Easy	5,980	6,054	-1.2%	26,310	26,131	0.7%
Audio-visual	4,395	5,461	-19.5%	18,437	23,540	-21.7%
Magazines + Comics	273	575	-52.5%	1,298	2,050	-36.7%
eBooks	253	799	-68.3%	1,100	2,626	-58.1%
Timberlands Circ Dawe Circulation	7,863	7,253	8.4%	30,730	27,991	9.8%
Visits-Timberlands	5,296	5,815	-8.9%	19,831	20,820	-4.8%
Downtown	22,796	25,136	-9.3%	81,883	98,813	-17.1%
Dawe	11,667	14,753	-20.9%	52,658	52,646	0.0%
Website Visits	67,055	76,416	-12.3%	291,835	294,084	-0.8%
Total Visits	101,518	116,305	-12.7%	426,376	445,543	-4.3%
Interlibrary Loans						
ILL In	414	403	2.7%	1,910	1,600	19.4%
ILL Out	203	290	-30.0%	536	1,038	-48.4%
Total	617	693	-11.0%	2,446	2,638	-7.3%
New Memberships	569	743	-23.4%	2,297	2,671	-14.0%
Renewals	134	167	-19.8%	535	659	-18.8%
Total	703	910	-22.7%	2,832	3,330	-15.0%

	April 2017	April 2016	% Difference	2017 YTD	2016 YTD	% Difference
REFERENCE						
Adult Total	6,065	5,691	6.6%	19,245	26,936	-28.6%
Juv Total	1,760	1,784	-1.3%	6,228	7,509	-17.1%
Timberlands Total	763	539	41.6%	3,324	2,952	12.6%
Dawe Total	1,178	1,395	-15.6%	6,170	3,996	54.4%
Total Ref Questions	9,766	9,409	3.8%	34,967	41,393	-15.5%
Database Queries	1870	1,683	11.1%	7,284	7,287	0%
Total Questions	11,636	11,092	4.9%	42,251	48,680	-13.2%
PROGRAMS						
Teen Programs	7	0				
Adult Programs	17	19		37	47	
Attendance	135	335		784	1,017	
Teen Attendance	32	0				
Youth Programs	41	51		190	184	
Attendance	64	1,483		3,053	5,002	
TL Programs	175	106		456	400	
Dawe Programs	193	82		527	377	
Attendance	4,180	1,675		9,873	7,212	
TL Attendance	2,548	2,211		8,114	8,467	
Library Programs	433	258	67.8%	1,224	1,008	21.4%
Attendance	6,959	5,704	22.0%	21,882	21,698	0.8%
VOLUNTEER HOURS						
Friends	130	120		216	219	
Library *	914	820		3,653	3,293	
Library Board	107	53		295	196	
Total	1,151	993	15.9%	4,164	3,708	12.3%
PUBLIC INTERNET						
Timberlands	431	319		1,355	1,281	
Adult Sessions	3,238	3,055		10,666	11,247	
Youth Sessions	785	385		2,317	1,321	
Dawe Sessions	1,732	1,118		5,538	4,465	
Total Sessions	6,186	4,877	26.8%	19,876	18,314	8.5%
* Includes						
Adult Literacy Stats						
Tutors	199	182	9.3%			
Hours	872	772	13.0%	3,321	2,757	20.5%
Students	363	285	27.4%			
Hours	932	783	19.0%	3,434	2,667	28.8%

Managers Reports - April 2017

1. Create Young Readers: Early Literacy

RDPL Activity / Outcome for this period:

- One of our longtime playschool teachers Miss Marla, who brings four tours every year to the Children's Library, had this to say: *"We are always so pleased to promote the library and instill the love of reading to young children. We love your commitment to reaching out to young families and providing such rich experiences."*
- Claire Brown, Timberlands Branch Assistant, Lucinda Sheardown, Dawe Branch Assistant, Jill Griffith, Manager, Youth Services, and Michelle Molyneux, Member Services Assistant, took the library to the Kindergarten Here I Come Event. They created 60 library memberships for preschool to kindergarten aged children in the community who will be entering kindergarten in the fall, and spoke to close to 300 people about library services to children and families.
- The Toddler Fun program at the Dawe Branch is quite popular; at the last program in April we had 57 people attend. Due to the popularity of this program we may reformat it starting in September. The brainstorming will happen in the summer: perhaps we will have two Toddler Fun programs and/or add another early literacy program to the mix to make it easier for staff to manage the public expectations for programs aimed at toddlers.

2. Express Creativity: Create and Share Content

RDPL Activity / Outcome for this period:

- Deb Isbister, Youth Services Coordinator, Jill Griffith and Karen Drok, Manager, Timberlands Branch, attended the Alberta Library Conference (ALC) in Jasper at the end of April. Deb and Karen were first-timers. Coding, author visits, design thinking, communication and summer reading clubs for teens and adults were some of the sessions we attended that will be useful in future library planning.
- Ben Smeets, Digital Literacy Coordinator, along with some guests hosted another successful meeting of the Ukulele Orchestra. This program has been gaining momentum over the past few months and had a strong group of 12 participants this time around. The library is a great venue for this, and with such strong interest there's hope that this can continue as a partnership program.
- The Evil Genius Club program at the Timberlands Branch experienced its largest turnout yet in April, with 18 kids attending to experiment with the digital learning toys in the shared Ecole Barrie Wilson School Innovation Lab. With the strong interest shown in programs like the Evil Genius Club, one challenge is being able to meet the demand; we are planning to offer programs over the summer that provide additional opportunities for youth to use the Innovation Lab.

3. Satisfy Curiosity: Lifelong Learning

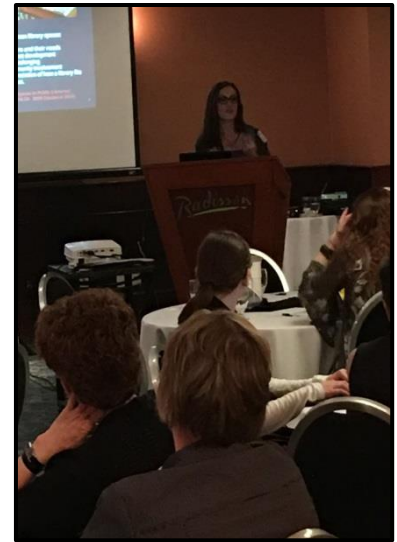
RDPL Activity / Outcome for this period:

- In the month of April, the Adult Literacy Program registered 17 new learners and 4 new tutors. The program matched 9 pairs.
- In April, Adult Literacy started a Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program class (CELPIP). Newcomers to Canada need to pass the CELPIP test in order to meet their eligibility requirements for permanent residency or citizenship. This class focuses on listening and

speaking skills and prepares the learners for the test. The class runs once a week for 10 weeks and has 14 learners.

- In April, Adult Literacy also started a Pronunciation class. This class focuses on common pronunciation problems that newcomers have and helps the learners gain confidence in their ability to communicate in English. The class runs once a week for 7 weeks and has 13 learners.
- In addition to the classes above, Adult Literacy also conducted a successful Computer Basics pilot program for Syrian refugees with the help of Ben Smeets. This program involved three consecutive sessions covering basics, email and word processing. The pilot was not only successful, but very informative for us moving forward.
- In the month of April, the Adult Literacy Program had another Saturday Conversation session for Syrian refugees. The instructor covered the topic of Banking which attracted 9 adult participants. At the same time, their 7 children were engaged in another early literacy program that was facilitated by a Dawe staff member.

- Amy Desjarlais, Manager, Teen Services, and Jill Griffith presented the session “Making the Connection: 21st Century Library Services for 21st Century Youth” at the Central Alberta Regional Consortium 2017 Librarians’ Conference to an appreciative group of 30 school librarians from around Central Alberta (pictured right). Many connections were made and they predict they will hear from many of the attendees in the future.



- Adult Services staff have had a busy month of programming! Some of the highlights include the ever popular Evening Artistry, run by Trish Klein, Adult Services Coordinator & Ben Smeets, iPad Basics run by Bonnie Marchuk, Adult Services Library Assistant, Travel Memories & Daytime Documentaries run by Donna Stewart, Adult Services Library Assistant and Priscilla McLaughlin, Adult Services Library Assistant, Fireside Readers run by Mary Neely, Adult Services Library Assistant, and First Thursdays, Brain Games, and Puzzle Room run by Kim Whiting, Adult Services Library Assistant.

- The new Youth Volunteer Drop-In program (co-sponsored by RDPL Teen Services and Volunteer Central of Red-Deer) continues to run every other Monday afternoon, in the mezz (pictured below). Local teens meet in the mezz to complete tasks for local non-profit organizations. During the month of April, participants completed a large volume project supporting the work of Shalom Counseling Centre and attended a presentation by the Rotoract Club of Red Deer about the club’s mission and the many ways teens can get involved in community activism!



- Mary Neely & Ann Harmon, Adult Services Library Assistants, have also rolled out a new program to celebrate Canada 150 at RDPL. The program runs from April through to September 2017, and is a Canada 150 Challenge for each month with a prize for the monthly winner. The challenge started in April with a Canadian Battlefields Crossword & Matching Questions, and will be followed by a Word Search; Adult Summer Reading Club Launch; a Scavenger Hunt, Loop Contest & Geocache; Sports Quiz; Trivial Pursuit and a Pub Quiz. All events are Canadian themed & some prizes have been purchased for the winners. Local businesses have also been very supportive of the programming, with beautiful donations coming from the likes of Parkland Nurseries, Hudson's Bay, and more. Customers can participate by picking up a form at any RDPL location.

4. Stimulate Imagination: Reading, Viewing, and Listening for Pleasure

RDPL Activity / Outcome for this period:

- The top five Red Deer Reads titles were revealed to the public at Let's Talk on April 8 at the Parkland Mall. The revealing was recorded live on Facebook, which is a fairly new initiative for the social media team; thanks to everyone involved in making this happen.
- RDPL celebrated National Canadian Film Day by screening Anne of Green Gables for a family movie night, hosted by Rachelle McComb, Youth Services Library Assistant, and Briana Ehnes Manager, Adult Services. Guests were invited to dress in costumes and bring a picnic lunch, and we served popcorn and "raspberry cordial". We had over 20 people attend, and adults & families enjoyed watching the beloved Canadian movie in the Children's Department.

5. Visit a Comfortable Space

RDPL Activity / Outcome for this period:

- Tatiana, Manager, Dawe Branch and Alla, Manager, Adult Literacy Program, cleaned the Dawe patio that was opened for a few warm days and used by the public immediately. We will start planting flowers after Victoria Day, however, for now it is open when the days are warm.
- On April 24 the Downtown Branch celebrated the re-opening of Level 2 by inviting designates, media and members of the public to come and visit the new space. Kim Whiting did a great job organizing the event, taking great care to showcase to the public all that Level 2 has to offer (pictures to the right and on the next page). Attendees were able to talk to staff and Board members, take a self-guided tour (by following footprints strategically placed all around Level 2), admire Paul Boultee's sculpture, "Square Bubbles" which was recently refurbished and placed by the staircase leading to Level 2, and enjoy refreshments. Jim Taylor, Board Chair, and Christina Wilson, Chief Executive Officer thanked all the contractors, staff and public for their help in making the renovations to Level 2 a success. Afterward, Councillor Tanya Handley, and MLA North Kim Schreiner, cut the "ribbon" (a balloon ribbon that is!) to signify the space being officially opened to the public. Mark Weber from the Red Deer Express covered the opening, posting a video and an article on the Red Deer Express website at: http://www.reddeerexpress.com/news/Downtown_library_second_level_lands_a_bright_fresh_look_420626233.html.





6. Other

- Shannon Lirondelle, Member Services Assistant returns to Member Services following a very successful stint in Youth Services. Welcome back, Shannon!
- Member Services staff bid a fond, yet temporary, farewell to Member Services staff Stephanie Clemence as she begins her maternity leave. We are fortunate to have Felicia McComb staying with us covering this maternity leave.
- A new exterior book return has been installed on the north side of the downtown branch. This updated drop is well insulated, very quiet and can be easily locked.
- Summer Reading Coordinators Aidan DeGraff and Micaela Jordan have been hired to plan, market and carry out the 2017 TD Summer Reading Club - Oh Canada 150! We have received funding through the Summer Temporary Employment Program, Canada Summer Jobs, and Friends of the Red Deer Public Library to staff and run the program this year.
- Staff at the Timberlands Branch received a comment from a parent who was introduced to the library when her child came with a kindergarten class for a tour of the Children's department.

When the parent received a registration form for her kindergartener, she came in to sign all three of her children up for library cards. She noted her appreciation for the library as she was running out of room for all the books she was purchasing for her oldest child, an avid reader!

- On April 26, the Adult Literacy Program hosted their annual Volunteer Appreciation Night (pictured below). 55 people attended the event, including tutors and learners. Cory Stier, Deputy CEO, welcomed everyone on behalf of Red Deer Public Library, and Councillor Dianne Wyntjes spoke about the role that adult literacy volunteers play in the community. This event was also attended by a reporter and a photographer from The Advocate. Below is the link to the front page article of The Red Deer Advocate:
<http://www.reddeeradvocate.com/news/red-deer-literacy-volunteers-appreciated/>



- Briana Ehnes, Manager, Adult Services, attended the ALC in Jasper as a member of the ALC Planning Committee (Social Convenor). The conference was a success, with over 800 delegates, guests and exhibitors packed into the Jasper Park Lodge. Briana has agreed to stay on the committee for the 2018 Planning Committee as well, and will meet with the ALC team again in June.
- The social media team had a busy month in April, from revealing the Top Five Red Deer Reads titles at Let's Talk, to promoting the Grand Re-Opening of Level 2 and An Evening with Joseph Boyden, to recommending books, providing library information, and more, as pictured below:
- Tatiana Tilly and Lucinda Sheardown hired two interns and two tutors for the Summer Reading Pals program at the Dawe Branch. With additional help from volunteers, we expect to provide one-on-one tutoring to 90 reluctant young readers in the summer.