



RED DEER LIBRARY BOARD
6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26, 2015
Waskasoo-Kiwanis Meeting Room

AGENDA

Welcome & Chair's Remarks

Conflict of Interest Declaration

Approval of Consent Agenda

15. Approval of Agenda
16. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meetings (February 26, 2015 and March 12, 2015)
17. Report from the Planning & Finance Committee
 - a. Approval of Financial Statements of February 28, 2015
18. Report from the Personnel & Administration Committee
 - a. Approval of Policy 9.2
19. Friends of the Library report
20. Acceptance of the Managers' reports & Library statistics

Items for Decision

17. Planning and Finance Committee
 - a. Approval of Financial Statements of February 28, 2015
18. Personnel and Administration Committee
 - a. Approval of Policy 9.2

Strategic Discussion and Board Development

Adjournment



open for discovery

RED DEER LIBRARY BOARD
6:30 p.m. Thursday, February 26, 2015
Waskasoo-Kiwanis Meeting Room

MINUTES

Present: Lisa Wakefield (Chair), Verda Lee Gilchrist, Lionel Lustgarten, Jackie Ammeter, Anita Thomas, Christina Wilson (CEO), Jim Taylor, Sylvia Bolkowy, Lawrence Lee (attended from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.), Leah Tymko, Jannie Ypma (Minutes)

Regrets: Mark Waters

Welcome & Chair's Remarks

Lisa called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
Lisa welcomed and introduced our guests.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

There was nothing to declare.

Strategic Discussion and Board Development

Guests: Bonnie Gray, Assistant Director, Public Library Services Branch
Jen Anderson, Consultant (School/Library Partnerships),
Public Library Services Branch
Piet Langstraat, Superintendent of Schools, Red Deer Public School District 104
Craig Curtis, Manager, City of Red Deer

Craig Curtis spoke to the proposed Inglewood School/Public Library partnership. He reassured the Board of the City's continuing commitment to and support of Red Deer Public Library. He gave a history of the Armoury/Firehall and of the fundraising efforts to renovate this building into the present space as a part of the Downtown Branch. He expressed disappointment for the lost opportunity for a public library branch in the Collicutt Centre. The City has no plans to develop this site in the next ten years. He encouraged the Board to rethink the decision regarding the opportunity for a public/school library in the new proposed school in Inglewood.

Piet Langstraat suggested there may be an interim solution that would benefit the City, Red Deer Public Library, and Red Deer Public School District. The proposed Inglewood School has a community focus in that other community organisations have been invited to use space in the school for their programming needs; for example, the Primary Care Network and the Golden Circle. The Branch location in the school may be a temporary space until funds are available for a stand-alone Red Deer Public Library Branch in the southeast. There are ways to work

together to share resources. The Red Deer Public School Board has resources that could be made available to Red Deer Public Library (perhaps for planning and staffing) during the planning and preparation stages of the public library branch in the proposed Inglewood School until sufficient other funds are available.

The Board raised several issues:

- The Timberlands Branch was constructed in very tight timelines. In the construction phase, new issues came up that had not been planned for.
- We have not had enough time to evaluate the lessons learned from the construction, opening and running of the Timberlands Branch.
- There has not been enough time to learn who our customers are and how best to serve them at Timberlands Branch.
- What processes are in place regarding the planning of the school and the public/school library?
- There was a concern expressed with regard to reporting in the newspaper. Craig Curtis answered that the newspaper articles are not always accurate. It was always discussed as a community space in City Council.
- What kind of resources can the City and the School Board offer to the Library for the planning, construction and opening of the proposed Inglewood Branch?
- Staff were feeling very stressed during the planning, construction and opening of the Timberlands Branch.

Lisa thanked Craig Curtis and Piet Langstraat for coming to the Board meeting and discussing this issue with the Board members. Craig Curtis and Piet Langstraat left the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Approval of Consent Agenda

8. Approval of Agenda
9. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting (January 29, 2015)
10. Report from the Planning & Finance Committee
 - a. Approval of Financial Statements of January 31, 2015
11. Report from the Personnel & Administration Committee
12. Friends of the Library report (nothing to report this month)
13. Acceptance of the Managers' reports & Library statistics

Correction: There is a typographical error in the Statistics Report.

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda with correction noted.
TAYLOR / GILCHRIST / CARRIED

Items for Decision

Guest: Grant Stange, CA, Collins Barrow Red Deer LLP

Lisa welcomed and introduced Grant Stange at 7:15 p.m. Grant discussed each of the points in the Report to the Board of Directors 2014. Grant discussed and explained the Draft Financial Statements and Auditor's Report of December 31, 2014. He thanked the staff for their willingness to help during the auditing process. He praised Vanessa Cook, the library's Human Resources/Financial Officer, for the accuracy and thorough financial reporting of the Library's financial position. Lisa thanked Grant for his time and explanation of the financial reports. Grant left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

10. Planning and Finance Committee

- a. Approval of Financial Statements of January 31, 2015

MOTION: To approve the Financial Statements of January 31, 2015.
BOLKOWY / AMMETER / CARRIED

- b. Approval of Auditor's report to the Board

MOTION: To approve the Audited Financial Reports 2014 as presented by Grant Stange.
BOLKOWY / GILCHRIST / CARRIED

11. Personnel and Administration Committee

Library Board Policies 2.1 to 2.4 were reviewed and amended at the Committee Meeting of January 22, 2015. Library Board Policies 2.5 to 2.7 were reviewed and amended at the Committee Meeting of February 19, 2015.

MOTION: To adopt Library Board Policies 2.1 to 2.7 as amended.
TAYLOR / THOMAS / CARRIED

Library Board Policy 9.2 – 'Exempt Employee Agreement' will be reviewed at the next Committee Meeting.

Jasper Library Conference 2015

Jackie Ammeter, Sylvia Bolkowy, and Anita Thomas will be attending the Alberta Library Conference 2015 in Jasper from April 30 to May 3, 2015. Early Bird Registration deadline is March 13, 2015.

Discussion regarding Proposed Inglewood Branch

There was discussion regarding the new information brought forward by Craig Curtis and Piet Langstraat. The new information that was presented was thought to be enough that a special Library Board meeting be scheduled to discuss this issue further. A special Library Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the new information from the City of Red Deer and the Red Deer Public School District.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Verda Lee at 8:30 p.m.

Approved _____
Lisa Wakefield (Chair)



open for discovery

RED DEER LIBRARY BOARD
6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 12, 2015
Waskasoo-Kiwanis Meeting Room

MINUTES

Present: Lisa Wakefield (Chair), Lawrence Lee, Lionel Lustgarten, Anita Thomas, Sylvia Bolkowy, Verda Lee Gilchrist, Jackie Ammeter, Leah Tymko, Jim Taylor, Christina Wilson (CEO), Jannie Ypma (Minutes)

Regrets: Mark Waters

Welcome & Chair's Remarks

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

Lisa welcomed the Board members and the members of the public in attendance. She reviewed the meeting agenda and reminded the members of the public that this was a Board meeting and that only Board members would be able to speak to the item listed on the agenda. The Chair reviewed the consensus of the Board that motions brought forward at this meeting would be dealt with by ballot vote, as per Library Board guidelines and Robert's Rules of Order. Jannie will pass out the ballots, collect them, tally them and give the results to Lisa.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

There was no conflict of interest declared.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.
TAYLOR / GILCHRIST / CARRIED

Items for Decision

14. Inglewood School/Public Library Partnership

Lisa reviewed the minutes from the Board meeting of February 26, 2015 regarding the new information brought by Craig Curtis, Manager, City of Red Deer and Piet Langstraat, Superintendent of Schools, Red Deer Public School District 104. At that meeting, Craig Curtis gave assurances of the City's commitment to community spaces and that the public library would operate in the space.

Christina reviewed the CEO's report on the Inglewood School Proposal, dated March 11, 2015. The background to the processes bringing us to this point was covered as well as the recent developments, service model and lessons learned. Charts showing the demographics of the neighbourhood and library users of the Timberlands Branch were discussed. École Barrie Wilson Elementary School is a dual track school that

includes both French Immersion and English options. This means that students would come from all over the city. The Inglewood School would be a neighbourhood school since it will only have the English option for students. This could potentially limit users of the library to come only from the immediate area surrounding the school. But what draws people to visit a library is the welcoming space and good collections available for borrowing.

Lisa invited each of the Board members to speak to the Inglewood School Proposal in turn. Each of the Board members expressed appreciation for the staff effort to supply the extra information in the documents prepared for this meeting. Points brought forward include the following:

- Looking at the documents and information provided by staff reinforced the initial decision to say “No” to the Inglewood School Proposal.
- Have a greater appreciation for the effect this decision would have on front line staff.
- The City and School Board effectively countered objections raised by Board members at the February 26, 2015 by offering solutions to help the library move forward.
- After driving to the site of the proposed Inglewood School it became apparent that:
 - The neighbourhood has lots of potential library users
 - It is close to the trails system for easy access to the proposed school/public library
 - The bus route is nearby.
 - The library is tucked away from a major traffic route and would not be visible to a large segment of the city population that would be spur-of-the-moment library users.
- The possibility of a temporary location for the library at the Inglewood School is attractive but raises other questions regarding which organisation would keep the funding, furniture and collections if the public library moved to another location. Would the resources that the public library took away from the partnership be enough to build a separate stand-alone library?
- This proposal is not popular now but as with the trails system that was not enthusiastically supported 30 years ago, the school/public library concept may be an important part of our library system in the future.
- Report from the staff includes a study that stated that school/public libraries do not serve either partner well, nor the population it is mandated to serve. Each one has a different role in the community.
- Comment made by Craig Curtis was repeated regarding the answer to a question of when the City would support a stand-alone public library. The answer was “When the community wants it”. And since the last community survey showed libraries low on the list of wants, it may be a long time before City funding for a new stand-alone library branch is available.
- Sometimes one board member was in favour of the proposed Inglewood Branch but other times not.

- If the Board decided to agree to a temporary branch at Inglewood, where would the budget go? Would it go with the public library when it left and would it be enough to build a separate stand-alone building for the public library? This may be very expensive and we would need to partner with another organisation in order to fund it.
- Being in a place that people visit frequently – such as a shopping centre.
- How does it look to the citizens of Red Deer when the public library says NO to such a seemingly advantageous partnership with the City of Red Deer and the Red Deer Public School District; especially when the Golden Circle and the Primary Care Network may be involved as well.
- How valid are the results from the community survey and can we really trust the results. Sometimes results are skewed toward what the people conducting the survey want to hear.
- Have not heard a lot more from Craig Curtis and Piet Langstraat that adds to the discussion of this issue and would make the Board want to go ahead with the proposed partnership in Inglewood.
- The Board should be developing the criteria necessary to making a decision about another public library branch. If we don't know what the community wants, how can we make an informed decision? We need to feel that we are ready ourselves to go ahead with a fourth branch.
- There was concern with the emphasis placed on the idea that we need to seize this opportunity now because we may not have another chance for a fourth branch for a very long time.
- The Board did their due diligence and is prepared to make a decision. The previous decision was made in good faith with the information available. Why would the Board come back to discuss this issue?
- Some Board members felt unduly pressured to reconsider the decision. There was really no new information presented. We would be rushed into opening a fourth branch before we are ready.
- Some Board members expressed unhesitating support for the fourth branch at Inglewood.
- It seemed that most of the discussion revolved around operational issues. As a Board, this is not our mandate. The Board is entrusted with the vision of setting goals for the library. The Board has a responsibility to use the collective wisdom of those it represents to move forward toward the future. The Board has the responsibility to monitor the budget and decide how the budget will be used to accomplish the goals it has set for the organisation.
- Partnerships are vital to the success of libraries. Expressed excitement about the new branch at Timberlands and the opportunities to try new things in a new space. "If you build it, they will come".

MOTION: That the Library Board considers further discussion regarding the motion made at the December 17, 2015 Library Board meeting which reads “That the Library Board sign the Partnership Statement of Commitment and pursue the Inglewood Library Branch opportunity”.
LEE / GILCHRIST

A ballot vote was taken:

3 members voted to approve the motion

6 members voted to oppose the motion

The motion is defeated.

Adjournment

Lisa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Approved _____
Lisa Wakefield (Chair)

CEO Report – February 2015

A great deal of time in February was devoted to work on the South Side Branch, coordinating the various reports required by the province and the City, such as the Audit and the provincial library statistics report and jump starting our Capital projects (roof, air conditioners, telephone/security system) in coordination with city and external staff. It all happens due to the efficiency and knowledge of the Management Team and Administration staff. In particular though, I'd like to acknowledge the work of Vanessa Cook, Nicole Charles and Cory Stier in completing these important projects.

Statistics

Last month, I noted that the Public Internet statistics were missing the Wi-Fi component. Wi-Fi use has increased in the library and it was time to review our method for gathering this data. This project was undertaken by our capable and knowledgeable I.T. staff, Rob Bastell and Nicole Charles. January and February figures have been updated accordingly, and we'll review the approach annually. It's also worth noting that 4 public access PCs were replaced on Level 4, Downtown Branch to accommodate customer demand for more areas where the public may use their own devices to connect to the Library's Wi-Fi. In addition, in January, I incorrectly reported that I.T. Services provide a full day of support to Timberlands. I wish we had the staffing level to provide this! The reality is that I.T. Services staff provides a half day of support at the Dawe Branch and 2 hours at Timberlands, on the same day of the week. This is a minimum level and reason to present additional I.T. staff in next year's operating budget, again. Another statistics that we review closely is our database queries, which dropped in February, due to an apparent decrease in Ebsco/Novelist searches, our most-used database! There's no internal reason for this decrease in use. The vendor has been contacted with the request to either resolve or explain. Technology changes constantly and we suspect that there's been an internal change with this vendor's product, impacting our figures.

Downtown Security

On February 11, 2015, a serious security incident took place in the library: one of our security guards was assaulted by a member of the public. Fortunately, he was not injured, the police arrived promptly and the perpetrator was removed and is now permanently banned from ALL library branches. This incident, and several others of increasing frequency and seriousness, led to the Library adopting a "zero tolerance" approach towards unacceptable customer behaviour in all locations. Beginning February 23 security staff were doubled and the Link area opens one hour later (8:30 am, rather than 7:30), in consultation with Café Noir staff. It's an unbudgeted item and will be reviewed in April as we put other measures in place to ensure a level of behaviour control in the Downtown branch. This falls within the Deputy CEO's duties and Cory has developed measures to track issues and consult with security and library staff. The issues are not unique to the library, but are experienced throughout the downtown core. Cory Stier and Amy Trepanier participate in an informal downtown association to stay in touch with other organisations, concerned with developing sustainable solutions to this persistent problem. Other measures have been put into place and we'll review the security staffing in early April.

Minister's Award

Red Deer Public Library submitted an application for our very popular First Thursdays concert series. It was another exercise in team work and using Google to work together on a shared file orchestrated by Cory with assistance from our two visionary First Thursdays volunteers Cheryl Cooney and Dick Huddleston; Promotions Assistant, Janet Pierce (photography); contributions from the First Thursdays audience and a wonderfully supportive letter from former Director, Dean Frey. Even if we're not successful in winning, telling the story is valuable, as is the experience of competing!

I was also asked to contribute to the nomination of Cheryl Cooney for a prestigious provincial award. In all cases, please keep your fingers crossed!

Community

Public Library Services Branch (PLSB)

Several members of PLSB visited RDPL during the month of February.

- On February 6, Trish Klein, Adult Services, coordinated a meeting of PLSB staff (Kim Johnson and Katrina Borowski) and other library leaders involved in developing services to print disabled populations. Trish executed a brilliant stroke by connecting this group to RDPL staff and community representatives involved in serving print disabled populations. This both raised awareness within our community of these unique services and provided the visitors with great information that prepared them for the PLSB Symposium on Equitable Library Service to Print Disabled People that took place later in the month.
- Bonnie Gray, Assistant Director and Jen Anderson, Library Consultant attended the February 26 Board meeting at which the Inglewood school/library proposal was discussed.
- The PLSB continues to support the digital strategy by announcing continued funding for databases Mango, Zinio, PressReader and Hoopla. Announced on February 24, the Hoopla top up of \$155,000.00 was shared among all public and regional libraries, for which we thank the Branch. Their support of a digital strategy for all public and regional libraries levels service throughout the province. The additional \$6,500, allotted to RDPL from the top up funding, totals \$15,670.00 for Hoopla funding from PLSB.

The Alberta Library (TAL)

Another important external partner for RDPL is TAL. Red Deer Public Library was a founding Board member and participates in various ways in TAL initiatives. One of its chief values is as a "buying club" for our databases. Through the power of membership, we receive better pricing and the expertise of TAL staff in license negotiation and information about the changing online landscape. Cory Stier represents the public library sector on the TAL Licensing Committee and I am the Secretary Treasurer of the TAL Board. As a Board member, I'm pleased to introduce you to TAL's new CEO, Grant Chaney. Beginning his duties on March 2, 2015, Grant brings extensive experience leading complex cross-organisational initiatives from his consulting work with Alberta Enterprise and Advanced Education and ApplyAlberta and as

Chief Technology Officer, Alberta Innovation and Science where he led the implementation of the SuperNet. He has experience working inside government as a former ADM, Alberta Public Works at a time when TAL needs to renew its relationship with several government ministries. As a Board member, I look forward to working with Grant in executing TAL's visionary strategic plan, which will be ratified at our April Board meeting in Calgary.

Library Statistics - February, 2015

	Feb 2015	Feb 2014	% Difference	2015 YTD	2014 YTD	% Difference
CIRCULATION						
Total Circulation	65,115	63,147	3.1%	135,165	129,109	4.7%
Adult Materials	31,785	33,436	-4.9%	67,802	70,115	-3.3%
Paperback	1,662	2,180	-23.8%	3,425	4,550	-24.7%
Fiction	4,479	4,390	2.0%	9,419	9,492	-0.8%
Non-Fiction	3,225	3,324	-3.0%	6,931	7,333	-5.5%
Large Print	1,490	1,044	42.7%	2,746	2,268	21.1%
Teen	2,316	2,388	-3.0%	5,262	4,734	11.2%
Audio-visual	14,679	16,365	-10.3%	31,681	34,039	-6.9%
Magazines	614	1,451	-57.7%	1,493	2,348	-36.4%
Other Languages	24	39	-38.5%	27	66	-59.1%
Daisy CDs	43	59	-27.1%	82	114	-28.1%
eBooks	3,253	2,196	48.1%	6,736	5,171	30.3%
Children's Materials	17,635	17,369	1.5%	35,455	32,643	8.6%
Paperback	1,349	1,377	-2.0%	2,668	2,750	-3.0%
Non-Fiction	1,726	1,507	14.5%	3,434	3,091	11.1%
Other Languages	341	224	52.2%	642	402	59.7%
Fiction	1,217	929	31.0%	2,570	2,007	28.1%
Easy	6,706	5,869	14.3%	13,177	12,458	5.8%
Audio-visual	5,507	6,395	-13.9%	11,162	9,832	13.5%
Magazines + Comics	379	522	-27.4%	769	1,042	-26.2%
eBooks	410	546	-24.9%	1,033	1061	-2.6%
Timberlands Circ	4,286	0		8,949	0	
Dawe Circulation	11,409	12,342	-7.6%	22,959	26,382	-13.0%
Visits-Timberlands	3,816	0		8,078	0	
Downtown	15,447	19,889	-22.3%	34,199	41,791	-18.2%
Dawe	12,439	11,299	10.1%	24,282	22,725	6.9%
Website Visits	38,931	39,639	-1.8%	77,041	80,051	-3.8%
Total Visits	66,817	70,827	-5.7%	135,522	144,567	-6.3%
Interlibrary Loans						
ILL In	295	216	36.6%	629	521	20.7%
ILL Out	191	159	20.1%	478	344	39.0%
Total	486	375	29.6%	1,107	865	28.0%
New Memberships	666	525	26.9%	1,463	1114	31.3%
Renewals	145	550	-73.6%	316	1146	-72.4%
Total	811	1,075	-24.6%	1,779	2,260	-21.3%

REFERENCE	Feb 2015	Feb 2014	% Difference	2015 YTD	2014 YTD	% Difference
Adult Total	4,978	4,567	9.0%	10,192	9,686	5.2%
Juv Total	1,532	1,495	2.5%	3,434	8,148	-57.9%
Timberlands Total	370	0		788	0	
Dawe Total	845	730	15.8%	1,660	1,825	-9.0%
Total Ref Questions	7,725	6,792	13.7%	16,074	19,659	-18.2%
Database Queries	1,494	2,179	-31.4%	8,167	4,385	86.2%
Total Questions	9,219	8,971	2.8%	24,241	24,044	0.8%
PROGRAMS						
Adult Programs	16	22		26	27	
Attendance	200	144		367	242	
Youth Programs	45	43		95	92	
Attendance	1165	906		2,179	1,981	
TL Programs	78	0	0	167	0	
Dawe Programs *	69	81		126	154	
Attendance	1316	1,511		2,594	3,022	
TL Attendance	1,719	0		3,562	0	
Library Programs	208	146	42.5%	414	273	51.6%
Attendance	4,400	2,561	71.8%	8,702	5,245	65.9%
VOLUNTEER HOURS						
Friends	40	35		78	40	
Library *	638	675		1,242	1,239	
Library Board	34	99		110	212	
Total	712	809	-12.0%	1,430	1,491	-4.1%
PUBLIC INTERNET						
Timberlands	231	0		423	0	
Adult Sessions	2,603	2,321		5,227	4,870	
Youth Sessions	192	529		416	1,119	
Dawe Sessions	1045	786		2,056	1,572	
Total Sessions	4,071	3,636	12.0%	8,122	7,561	7.4%
* Includes						
Adult Literacy Stats						
Tutors	101	112	-9.8%			
Hours	559	641	-12.8%	1,131	1,220	-7.3%
Students	129	137	-5.8%			
Hours	476	529	-10.0%	928	1,014	-8.5%

Red Deer Public Library Managers' Reports, FEBRUARY 2015

Learning and Literacy

- Jill Griffith, Youth Services Manager, attended the Early Years Coalition meeting in February to talk about the **1000 Books Before Kindergarten** initiative that Children's will be launching in May, and in a big way next September, promoting early literacy throughout the community. Friends of the Library will be approached for a grant to cover the cost of book bags and a small book to be given to families at the beginning and end of a child's 1000 books.
- Themed story fun programs promote literacy by using a popular book character, in this case Pete the Cat, to bring families to the Library, participate in the programs, and sign out materials based on the theme. A program that normally sees 15 to 20 people every Saturday saw 85 come through in an hour's time on February 21st.



- Amy Trepanier, Teen Services Manager, taught a second Overdrive training session for teens, at Notre Dame High School, during a flex block in January. Many of these students plan to use Overdrive to access books, electronically, for use in school projects.
- Tatiana Tilly, Dawe Branch Manager, got happy news that her presentation proposal for the Pacific Northwest Library Association (PNLA) 2015 conference "Pushing the Boundaries" in Vancouver, WA was accepted. The presentation title is *School/Public Library Branch in a Community Centre Setting: Challenges and Successes*.
- Tatiana Tilly attended the first 2015 meeting of the Grow Boys programming committee. The Dawe Branch will again offer two sessions for this great event that is held annually at the Dawe Centre in May: *Human Library* organised by the Dawe staff and *Techno Literacy* run by Amy Trepanier, Teen Services Manager.

- Adult Literacy staff has been busy during February doing intake on eight new tutors, six new learners and making five new matches. The program has had tremendous community support in our call for volunteers since the start of the year.
- Alla Mysko-Henke did an excellent tutor training session for Adult Literacy tutors on “Where to start with a Beginning ESL Learner” on Feb. 10th. Eleven tutors took advantage of this learning opportunity.
- Adult Literacy staff has been working on the application to Innovation and Advanced Education for the 2015/16 grant period.

Access and Inclusion

- Briana Ehnes, Manager, Adult Services and Trish Klein attended the Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA) & National Network for Equitable Library Service (NNELS) Symposium in Edmonton at the Matrix Hotel on Thursday February 26 and 27, 2015. There was a lot of brainstorming sessions, RDPL staff connected with others from various library systems, best practices were shared regarding improving services to print disabled populations, the ideal future of these services and ways for public libraries to collectively close the gap, identify populations in our communities and develop appropriate services for them. Representatives from CELA, NNELS, the Public Library Services Board (PLSB), and the Vision Impaired Resource Network (VIRN) presented on these topics. The key message was awareness about serving print disabled populations (10% of our population) as a first step.
- Teen Services Manager, Amy, offered an Overdrive training session to a group of street-involved teens at Street Ties Youth Outreach Centre who do not regularly visit the library (largely as a result of behavioural issues and/or criminal involvement), with each teen downloading at least one book to his/her phone. These teens were very pleased to learn they could access books, electronically. They also learned how to access and use movies and music via Hoopla.
- Cory Stier was a featured presenter at “Travel Memories” Adult Services program, February 4, sharing his bicycling adventures across the Netherlands and Belgium in 2013 and France in 2014, and visiting libraries of all shapes and sizes while raising awareness of the importance of libraries in today's society. 20 people attended.
- Daytime Documentaries, February 11, featured the film: *Bobby Fischer Against the World*, about the complex life of Bobby Fischer, troubled chess genius whose charisma and talent spurred worldwide fascination with chess. Enthusiastic discussion followed and 19 people attended.
- Tatiana Tilly started discussing St. Patrick's Summer Reading Program partnership with the St. Patrick's principal and vice-principal. The Camille School Librarian is planning her French summer program around our program at Timberlands and potentially wants 400 memberships for their students. The Downtown Branch will be partnering with Maryview School Grades 1 and 2 as part of their summer initiatives. Amy will be partnering with Notre Dame High School as well as St. Thomas Middle School to promote summer reading as well. It's gratifying to see the headway we are making into the school systems this year.

Community

- Teen Services Manager, Amy, spent the day at Notre Dame Catholic High School, on January 22nd, acting as a student interviewer for grade 11 and 12 students completing their Career and Life Management course requirements and planning for our summer 2015 Summer Reading Club Collaboration with the Catholic School District.
- The Teen Services Manager and Red Deer PRIDE Group chair have collaborated to re-launch the local PRIDE youth group (the former group disbanded with the departure of the former Chair, several years ago). The group has now met three times, and gathers in the Waskasoo Kiwanis Meeting Room, every other Friday, from 3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. for crafts, board games, discussion groups, music sharing, and to plan a talent show later this spring. All teens and young adults (of any orientation, aged 12-25) are welcome to attend. Thus far, teens have traveled in to Red Deer from communities as far-flung as Lacombe and Rocky Mountain House, to attend meetings of this new group.
- Rachelle McComb, Children's Services Assistant, gave a 15 minute presentation on how reading builds a child's brain, as well as an introduction to our upcoming 1000 Books Before Kindergarten initiative at an Apple Talks event at the Family Services Kinsmen Family Space in Parkland Mall. Apple is a family health and wellness publication put out by Alberta Health Services. As a result, Rachelle received notification that they would like to continue to work with the library on future endeavours because of our expertise in early literacy.
- Tatiana Tilly, the Dawe Branch Manager, invited a few local organisations to participate in hosting Dawe Community Bike Fair in June. Invited organisations expressed a lot of interest and plans are underway for a full day fun event filled with information about safe biking in our community.
- Tatiana Tilly and Lois Prostebby also researched various possibilities of upgrading and beautifying the Dawe patio in partnership with the Alberta Mother's Earth Community. A proposal has been made for the Friends of the Library to sponsor *Friends of the Library Reading Garden* project at the Dawe Branch.
- Adult Literacy staff nominated two dedicated tutors (Connie MacDonald and Judy English) for the Mayor's Recognition Awards in the Distinguished Volunteer Service Award Category.
- The Timberlands Branch took part in École Barrie Wilson School's Family Skating Night on February 11, which was planned by the Parent Council. Families were able to use the public skating rink (though the cold wind made that option less desirable!), decorate cookies in the school common area, play in the gym, and come to the library for crafts and stories. We had ~160 people partake in the library portion of the event. It was a great success, and we look forward to being a part of this annual event each winter.

Relationships

- Freedom to Read Week was a month long celebration that involved all departments and branches. It fostered a new partnership with the Alberta Teacher's Association Local Diversity, Equity and Human Rights Committee through a poster contest, held through the school systems which netted a wealth of thoughtful entries and our social media shelfie contest (#RDPLshelfie) which also generated interest. Other events included
 - A special Philosopher's Cafe on the topic of Censorship (Dawe Branch). Guillermo Barron, a Philosophy Professor at RDC spoke to an appreciative crowd of 18, with the hope of continuing this popular series at the Library once he retires from RDC.
 - Displays were up throughout the system (Timberlands, mezz and Dawe) and engaged staff and customers in many great conversations arising about Banned/Challenged Books and Intellectual Freedom
 - The mezz #RDPLshelfie display has resulted in copious reference desk questions pertaining to Young Adult Book Censorship. We cannot keep our display of "banned and/or challenged books" stocked, the titles are being checked out so rapidly!
 - Bibliocommons booklists of challenged books were created.
 - Freedom to Read Awards Ceremony, held downtown, capped off the week on February 28th by awarding 3 school children and one public library customer, each a Kobo Arc.



Some of the 55 responses to Dawe Branch's Display:

Bridge to Terabithia (3) -
"This book will live in your soul forever."

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (3) -
"Essential, Americana's great literature" "fun, entertaining, can't put the book down"

Hunger Games (13) -
"Inspired my love of reading and writing"

To Kill a Mockingbird (5) -
"First thought – provoking book I read." "Moving, honest, beautiful, encouraging, courageous"

- Lois, Adult Literacy Manager, attended the Central Alberta Poverty Reduction Literacy committee meeting. Updates from all agencies were shared about new initiatives. Terms of reference were established for this group. Several members will be attending RedCamp to present at this informal teacher's conference.
- Lois also attend the bi-monthly meeting of the Settlement Services Network which is an opportunity to have updates from all the settlement agencies in Red Deer.
- Adult Literacy staff started planning this program's Volunteer Appreciation event which will take place April 13, during National Volunteer Appreciation Week.

Fun

- Nearly 250 people attend our Frozen Princess Party at the Downtown Branch. One of the Security guards said it looked like a fairy tale had exploded in the Snell! Many of them came to The Children's Library afterwards to explore what we have to offer, with a number of requests regarding how to get a library membership.
- See our Teddy Bear Sleepover video on YouTube by searching "Teddy Bear Sleepover 2015 Red Deer Public Library." Although a labour-intensive program, the outcomes are favourable towards the library. It's very visible, and the resulting video can be shared to promote programs in the future, as well as learning opportunities for other libraries wishing to run similar programs.
- RDPL's own Cosplayer Extraordinaire, Felicia McComb attended our first Teen Cosplay Creator club, in the mezz, in January, as our guest hostess, and taught an enthusiastic group of teens to make very authentic-looking armour from foam and metallic paint. The Cosplay theme will continue throughout the year, and serve as the foundation for Teen Summer Reading Club 2015 across all branches.

The Arts

- Our new “Maker Boxes”, scattered throughout the mezz, have seen daily use (in most cases, multiple uses per day, per box) by teens hanging out in the teen space. The Maker Boxes include wire, small tools, beads, glue, paper, scissors, foam, Cube Cutie designs, and many other supplies necessary for creative teens looking to occupy some time by making something fantastic! The Maker Space boxes represent one aspect of our “passive programming” effort, whereby we hope to inspire teens to make greater use of our spaces and resources by engaging them in self-directed activities. We have also made a wide assortment of board and card games available in the mezz for in-library play. The result has been a very notable spike in the number of teens and young adults using the space throughout the day!
- Art sheets distributed through the Art corner at the Dawe branch: 336
- A mystery guest at the Guess Who Saturday program at Dawe was a children's writer Derek Macdonald. 28 program participants had a lot of fun learning from him how to write mystery stories and going for a mystery scavenger hunt in the library.
- We have officially launched our first annual Red Deer Reads Community-wide Book Club. This is based on the “One Book, One Community” model used in towns and cities all over the world. First, we will select one book that we hope everyone in Red Deer will read. Then we will try to get this book into the hands of as many people as possible. And finally, we will plan a five-week program, which will launch during Alberta Culture Days at the end of September, that will include a wide variety of programs all based around our “winning” title. We have been collecting nominations for our first RDR title via social media and in-person, and will finalize our longlist on March 11. We will narrow this down to our top five choices, based on the suitability of the title for our community, author availability (as we hope to have an author visit as part of our fall program), and other criteria, as outlined at <https://www.rdpl.org/programs/red-deer-reads>. The top five choices will be announced on April 11 (at the City’s Let’s Talk event) and our winning title will be revealed in May. We are hoping that this initiative will foster a great sense of community in Red Deer as it will bring people together through a shared reading experience.