

LIBRARY MANAGER'S REPORT – SUBMITTED BY PAMELA MORRIS

FEBRUARY 2021

Circulation has been steady for the first month of the new year with 3,396 physical items checked out of our library in January. Our patrons also borrowed 1,222 e-materials through Libraries-to-Go – including 480 e-audiobooks, 719 e-books and 23 e-magazines. A side effect of Covid-19 has been an increase in e-material usage by our patrons. In 2019 our patrons checked out 10,422 e-materials. In comparison, in 2020 our patrons borrowed 14,263 e-materials. We had 529 patrons using Libraries-to-Go in 2020, up 158 users from the previous year.

What we've been up to at the library:

- Our online social media presence has increased now that Jamie Bond is providing digital services for the library. Jamie continues to update our website regularly and has confirmed some upcoming virtual guest programming for March. This includes an upcoming 'self-care' session and the 'ABCs of LGBTQ' which will happen in May or June (possibly for Pride month).
- Book club continues to meet virtually. We are reading 'Whitethorn' by Bryce Courtenay.
- Outreach deliveries went out on Feb. 10.
- The children's librarian Laurie Youb is posting storytimes to Facebook and to YouTube. Crafts that accompany the weekly storytime are available for pickup at the library front counter.
- I took part in the virtual Baby Welcome Party on January 20. Each year in January the party is organized by the Building Learning Together group for babies born in the previous calendar year. I sit on the board of the BLT on behalf of the library and the library donated \$400 to purchase a book for each child at the party. The meeting was held virtually over Zoom this year and it was so much fun to see all the little faces. I spoke to the moms about library children's programming and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.
- On February 12 we teamed up with the city's Community Services department and held two virtual storytimes for families. This was part of their Family Day activities for the community. As our children's librarian was on holidays, I put on my Storytime hat and read books, sang songs and did some rhymes with the kids via Zoom. Lots of fun!
- We have set up a table of used books for sale to raise funds for the Friends of the Library. We are opening up the boxes stored in the middle of the library and stocking the table.
- The library will be offering "Blind Date with a Book" during Freedom to Read Week Feb 21 – 28. Books are being packaged up in brown paper bags and our patrons will be encouraged to borrow the books without knowing what's inside (there is a genre hint). When they borrow a blind date book they will be entered into a draw for a gift certificate from Faking Sanity.
- The library's annual report to the city (for placement on the city website) has been completed and submitted to city hall and city council. The annual Provincial Public Library Grants Report is included in this package for board approval before submission by March 1, 2021.
- Work continues on the 2020 financial audit for submission to the accountants in March.

Dolly Parton fundraising:

- The library received a \$5,000 donation Rotary Dawson Creek Sunrise for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library! With this donation, we currently have funding for the program until September.
- I have had no response yet for funding requests sent to Loblaws, Save on Foods or any of the Regional District directors.

- I have had conversations with the new grant writer at city hall, Becky Gelsthorpe. Currently she has not been able to find grant programs that the DPIL would qualify under. She will continue to keep me informed if any pop up in the future.
- I have applied for \$5,000 funding from both Shell and Pembina and have received emails that the applications are being considered and I hope to hear back in a month or two.
- We have had a lot of donations of used DVDs over the past few months and we have placed a sale cart in the library. All funds raised will go to the DPIL.
- My dad has made and donated wooden page holders for sale at the front counter. All funds raised will go to the DPIL.

Submitted by Pamela Morris, Library Manager